
MOSCOW PERSPECTIVE: THE MIDDLE EAST KNOT

VLADIMIR AKHMEDOV. SYRIAN SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT
OF THE IRAN-ISRAEL ARMED CONFLICT

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Vladimir Akhmedov,
PhD(Hist.), Senior Research Associate,
Institute of Oriental Studies, RAS,
e-mail: shamyarabist@gmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0002-4952-2964
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Abstract. The escalation of the armed conflict between Iran and Israel in June 2025 has exacerbated the national security issues in Syria. Despite the fall of the Assad regime, the collapse of the Iranian-Syrian alliance and Iran's obviously weakening position in the region, the new Syrian authorities consider Iran and its regional policy the main threat to the stability of the country's regime and national security. The article examines the Syrian regime's reservations regarding Iran by analyzing objective factors of national security and the regime's policy aimed at ensuring stability in Syria.

On the History of the Issue

The crisis in Syria activated the conflict potential of the Middle East and intensified the Iranian-Israeli confrontation. In 2021–2022, the Iranian-Israeli rivalry took on new forms, spreading to other countries of the Middle East and the South Caucasus. By the beginning of 2023, the armed conflict between Tel Aviv and Tehran had entered a critical phase, bringing the Middle Eastern region to the brink of a major war.

After the war in Gaza began in October 2023, Syria became an arena for armed Iranian-Israeli confrontation. Iran's military involvement in the Syrian conflict was accompanied by the Iranian Islamic Republic's confessional expansion into the Syrian Arab Republic (SAR). By the end of 2024, Israel had eliminated dozens of leaders of Hamas, Hezbollah, and the IRGC of the IRI, weakening the forces of the Islamic Resistance (IR) in Lebanon and Syria, while simultaneously exposing the routes for supplying weapons and fighters to IR units in Palestine and Lebanon through Syrian territory from Iraq [1].

Iran's military involvement in the Syrian conflict was accompanied by the spread of Shiite influence, as well as the seizure of a significant portion of the housing and land stock for the benefit of Shiite militia fighters and their families. This caused growing discontent among broad segments of the Syrian population, including the officer corps. Under the conditions of the war in Gaza, the Syrian regime found itself caught between a "hammer" (Israel) and an "anvil" (Iran). President Assad was forced, on the one hand, to grant Iran complete freedom to confront Israel from Syrian territory, and on the other hand, to secretly inform the Israelis of all Iranian "movements" in Syria in order to save the country from further destruction [2].

The hardships of the civil confrontation in the SAR and the apparent weakening of Iran and the "Axis of Islamic Resistance" it built forced both countries to prioritize the protection of their national interests over common allied obligations. The changing balance of power within Syria and the increase in international rivalry strengthened the expansionist sentiments of the