

Abstract

Annual Report on Development in the Middle East No. 19 (2016 ~ 2017), with the theme of “Post the America Era”, analyzes change and adjustment of the Middle East pattern after Arab Spring. It focuses on new trends of Major Powers’ strategic competition in the region and its influence on the Middle East development. The report specifically introduces Major Power’s Middle East Policy, such as the United States, Russia, the European Union, Japan and India.

At present, disorder and chaos are the salient features of the development of the international situation. The Middle East, after the Arabia spring, is an epitome in the global mess. Former president Obama opened the “post American Era” in the Middle East, while Trump accelerated its globalization process. The turbulent Middle East is pregnant with a new regional pattern. The seemingly disorderly Middle East is showing a new normal state of competition among big powers. The role and influence of the United States hegemony is fading, while Russia’s strong return to the political arena in the Middle East, the EU role marginalization highlights, East Asian powers such as India, Japan and china increasing more participation in the Middle East affairs. The local big countries such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates showing his special prowess with new faces. The multi-polarization process is accelerating. It is not known whether misfortune is good or not.

The Report also reviews the new development and new trend of political, economic, and the main hot-issues in the Middle East in 2016. ISIL is facing heavy pressure, but the organization will remain a major threat to global and regional in a long period. As ISIL encountered the failure in Mosul and Raqqa, the Syria war is facing a new periodic turning point. After losing the buffer of ISIL, the possibility of direct conflict between the parties involved in the Syria war will increase Between Basher Regime, the Syria Opposition, Russia, America,

Turkey and Iran. The Trump taking office casts clouds on the implementation of Iran's nuclear agreement and America-Iran relations, but Trump bears much bigger pressure to fulfill his promise to tear up the JCPOA. To deter and counter Iran has become one of the central part in Trump's Middle East policy, and it will threaten the stability of the region. The Yemen war continues, with the Saudi Arabia-led coalition facing increased military, economic and diplomatic pressure. The situation in Libya has become a little better, but the outlook remains bleak.

The report also made a comprehensive review of China's cooperation with Middle East Countries in trade, investment and Engineering contracting over the past year. A brief analysis is made on the progress of the Middle East disciplinary studies. The report also cites the events of the Middle East in 2016 as the attachment.

Keywords: Post-America Era; Middle East Politics; Middle East Economy

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I Main Report

Y. 1 New Trends of Major Powers' Rivalry in the Middle East

—*The New Geo-Political Land Landscape of the Middle East*

in Post-American Era

Tang Zhichao / 001

Abstract: There have been drastic changes of the geopolitics in Middle East since the outbreak of “Arab Spring” which swept through the region with unset and upheaval. The lack of United States’ leadership has become the most prominent feature in the mess, which means that the Middle East has entered the “post-American era” . The absence of the US brings out a huge power vacuum for a time in which great powers increase influence and rival in the Middle East, accelerating its pace of multi-polarization. Russia, India, Japan are actively carving out their niche “southward” or “westward” . Meanwhile, Regional powers like Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia are playing their edge in the fierce competition.

Keywords: The Middle East; Great Power Games; The Middle East Pattern

II Special Report

Y. 2 The Trends of Trump Administration’s Middle East Policy

Wang Lishen, Tang Zhichao / 032

Abstract: Embedded with a quite negative understanding of the Middle

East, Donald Trump took over the host of the Whitehouse, as well as the “horrible mess” left by Obama administration. However, Trump largely adopted and extended Obama’s strategic contraction, even though he has been crudely criticizing that. Emphasizing on “American First”, Trump’s Middle East policy apparently embodies ideas of realism, focusing on countering terrorism while lacking strong inclination or motivation to “promoting democracy and freedom” in the region. Based on Trump’s personality and his cognition to the Middle East, this paper analyzes the main tasks and challenges, policy trends, implementation prospects and its influence of Trump administration in the Middle East.

Keywords: US; Trump Administration; Middle East Policy

Y. 3 Analysis of Russia’s Strong Middle East Diplomacy

Li Jiabao, Yu Guoqing / 051

Abstract: The Middle East has always been the hotspot of super-powers’ concern and contest, and Russia is no exception. Russia faces the Middle East with the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Because of historical and realistic factors, Russia has a close relationship with the Middle East. Russia’s diplomacy in the Middle East includes three stages: passive response, partial participation and strong intervention. The Middle East is closely related to Russia’s interests, those are also the main decisive factors of Russia’s diplomacy in the Middle East. Specifically, the Middle East has important influence on Russia’s state security, political status and economic interest. After the Arab Spring, Russia’s diplomacy in the Middle East is characterized by independence, flexibility, pragmatism and initiative. On the whole, when interests of superpowers become increasingly intertwined in the Middle East, Russia, the USA and the European Union will have complicated relations including cooperation, competition and confrontation in the foreseeable future. Therefore, Russia’s implement of strong diplomacy in the Middle East isn’t a straightforward task.

Keywords: Russia; Middle East; Arab Spring; Strong Diplomacy



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Yu Guoqing / 077

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Keywords: EU; The Middle East Diplomacy; Security and Counter-Terrorism; Powers Competition

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Wei Liang / 097

Abstract: To become one of the world’s great power has been the ideal of Indian diplomacy for many years . In the 21st century, fast-growing India has a stronger will to achieve its goal. The Middle East is a close neighbor of India, and both of the two have a long history with civilization interaction. Since the second world war, the Middle East has been the main stage of India’s “non-alignment”

policy. Today interdependence between India and Middle East countries is growing stronger in energy, economy, trade, security, military, and many other fields, so the Middle East policy has become an important component of India's overall strategy.

Keywords: India's Diplomatic Concept; Indian Middle East Policy; Indian Strategic Interests

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Keywords: Japan; Middle East Policy; Petro-diplomacy; Political Diplomacy; Abe Cabinet



III Regional Situation

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Keywords: Turkey; Erdogan; July 15th Failed Coup; Presidential Republic

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erupt into civil war. The latest developments mean that the country is falling apart, the political and military balance of power between GNA-Misrata militias alliance and HOR-LNA alliance shifted and the intervention of big powers and regional countries made the situation more complicated. At present, none of the factions can get enough public support, military power and governance capacity to unify the country and seize state power. Libya has to face prolonged armed conflict and confront sever terrorist threat. It is a big problem for Libya and the international community to work out a feasible political framework to bridge the regional divide, maintain stability and develop economy in Libya. And it would take a long and tortuous way to realize the political reconciliation and national unification.

Keywords: Situation in Libya; ISIS; Political Pattern

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War and the Game of Great Powers

Ma Xueqing / 195

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Keywords: Syria War; Daesh (Islamic State); US; Russia



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Keywords: Strained Relation between the United States and Iran; Trump's Policy to Iran; Iran Nuclear Agreement; Alliance of Middle East Anti Iran; Rouhani's Re-election

Y. 11 The Situation of Terrorism in the Middle East and the
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Ma Wencheng / 228

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of violence and terrorism and the Pertinence, permeability, and deceptive of the extreme thought to make itself a large threat of the global security and difficult to be cleared in the short term. The author agrees on the conclusion of many scholars and experts to the unpromising future of the Middle East anti-terrorism situation and tries to interpret his opinion from the sectarian conflict and the diversification on the objects of the interpreting classics .

Keywords: The Middle East Region; Terrorism; the Belt and Road Initiative; Islamic State

IV Economy and Trade

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Abstract: Influenced by the output growth slowdown of developed countries, as well as the major developing countries, including China and India, the growth of world output also slowed down and the oil prices declined further in 2016. And under the global economic downturn and continued political tension within the region, output growth of Middle Eastern countries increased from 2.6% in 2015 to 3.8% in 2016. However, the economic growth differentiation of Middle Eastern countries getting more serious, except for non – GCC oil exporters, the GDP growth rate for GCC countries and oil importing Middle Eastern countries both declined in 2016. And according to the forecast of IMF, the overall GDP growth rate of Middle Eastern Countries will decline to 2.3% in 2017, and increase to 3.2% in 2018.

Keywords: Middle East Economy; Low Oil Prices; Middle East Economic Development

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has kept on continuous structural changes with the Oil price obviously increased in the international market in 2016. China is less depended on the resource of the West Asian countries. The distribution of the bilateral trade on the country and category are more and more stable with less resources-dependent. But there will be not substantial change on the basic rule of trade on endowment advantages of the trade partners. It is expected that the trade between China and the West Asian countries will develop on the base of the market, with more cooperation and innovation, while the factors of security and anti-terror situation should be considered.

Keywords: West Asia; Foreign Trade; China; The Belt and Road Initiative

Y. 14 The Foreign Direct Investment of West Asia and the China's OFDI towards West Asia

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Keywords: West Asia; FDI; Industry Diversity

V Documentation

- Y. 15 The Progress of Middle East Studies at Home and
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Keywords: Middle East Studies; Discipline Construction; Research Achievement

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