



ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ
ТҰҢҒЫШ ПРЕЗИДЕНТІ - ЕЛБАСЫНЫҢ ҚОРЫ

«ҒЫЛЫМ ЖӘНЕ БІЛІМ – 2017»

студенттер мен жас ғалымдардың
XII Халықаралық ғылыми конференциясының
БАЯНДАМАЛАР ЖИНАҒЫ

СБОРНИК МАТЕРИАЛОВ
XII Международной научной конференции
студентов и молодых ученых
«НАУКА И ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ – 2017»

PROCEEDINGS
of the XII International Scientific Conference
for students and young scholars
«SCIENCE AND EDUCATION - 2017»



14th April 2017, Astana



**ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ БІЛІМ ЖӘНЕ ҒЫЛЫМ МИНИСТРЛІГІ
Л.Н. ГУМИЛЕВ АТЫНДАҒЫ ЕУРАЗИЯ ҰЛТТЫҚ УНИВЕРСИТЕТІ**

**«Ғылым және білім - 2017»
студенттер мен жас ғалымдардың
XII Халықаралық ғылыми конференциясының
БАЯНДАМАЛАР ЖИНАҒЫ**

**СБОРНИК МАТЕРИАЛОВ
XII Международной научной конференции
студентов и молодых ученых
«Наука и образование - 2017»**

**PROCEEDINGS
of the XII International Scientific Conference
for students and young scholars
«Science and education - 2017»**

2017 жыл 14 сәуір

Астана

УДК 378

ББК 74.58

Ғ 96

Ғ 96

«Ғылым және білім – 2017» студенттер мен жас ғалымдардың XII Халықаралық ғылыми конференциясы = The XII International Scientific Conference for students and young scholars «Science and education - 2017» = XII Международная научная конференция студентов и молодых ученых «Наука и образование - 2017». – Астана: <http://www.enu.kz/ru/nauka/nauka-i-obrazovanie/>, 2017. – 7466 стр. (қазақша, орысша, ағылшынша).

ISBN 978-9965-31-827-6

Жинаққа студенттердің, магистранттардың, докторанттардың және жас ғалымдардың жаратылыстану-техникалық және гуманитарлық ғылымдардың өзекті мәселелері бойынша баяндамалары енгізілген.

The proceedings are the papers of students, undergraduates, doctoral students and young researchers on topical issues of natural and technical sciences and humanities.

В сборник вошли доклады студентов, магистрантов, докторантов и молодых ученых по актуальным вопросам естественно-технических и гуманитарных наук.

УДК 378

ББК 74.58

ISBN 978-9965-31-827-6

©Л.Н. Гумилев атындағы Еуразия
ұлттық университеті, 2017

UDC 327.82

**US STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AT
THE TIME OF OBAMA ADMINISTRATION**

Asma Najib

asmanajib92@gmail.com

Master student of Eurasian National University
after L.N. Gumilyov, Astana, Kazakhstan
Scientific adviser - Serikbayeva A.T.

Prior to the overview of other strategic interests of the U.S it is necessary to point out, that President Obama has been attempting to shift the policy course towards Asia, Therefore, strategic goals and priorities of the United States foreign policy in the Middle Eastern region have been significantly lowered and under stressed. Nevertheless, the US strategy included more building blocks, more goals in addition to the prevention and tackling of threats from terrorism and WMDs.

One particular threat to Middle Eastern stability has been on a map since as early as the middle of 20th century - Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The administration of President Obama has admitted that the resolution of the conflict is an important security interest of the United States. During the Cairo speech, President stated that the US would not “turn its back on the legitimate Palestinian aspiration for dignity, opportunity, and a state of their own” [1]. The President suggested a two-state solution, which would be a way out of decade’s long stalemate.

Strategic interest in supporting the allies in the Middle East and maintaining strategic presence

The US support for Israel has been a traditional goal of the US foreign policy, which Barack Obama reinstated during his two terms of presidency. The threats from state actors against the security of Israel has been decreasing, while the threats from Hamas, Hezbollah, ISIS and Iran’s nuclear ambitions have been accumulating their danger. The US has traditionally been maintaining Israel’s qualitative military edge: superiority over either conventional or unconventional threat. It is important to point out that in 2007 under Bush administration the US agreed to be providing Israel with a \$3 billion annual military package for ten years.

The US maintains emergency stockpile on the Israeli territory. It also cooperates with Israel in missile defence programs: Arrow, Arrow II and Joint Strike Fighter Program [2]. In addition to defence aid agreement and cooperation, there has been broad rhetoric of President Obama expressing the US commitment to protection of the country and strategic support. The President mentioned that strong and secure Israel was in the national security interest of the US because the countries share strategic interest and values⁸⁰. He stressed that it would be a moral failing for him as a president of the United States to not stand up for the country of Israel and protects it [3].

Nevertheless, it’s worth pointing out that Obama’s commitment to Is real has not been neoconservative confined. As he explained, he had to show that same kind of regard to other peoples. This has been relevant in the Israeli-Palestinian issue, on the matter of which he believed that caring about Palestinians is in line with Israel’s traditions and values.

Relations with the allies prop up another important goal of US foreign policy in the Middle East: maintaining strategic presence in the region. This presence is embodied through positioning of bases, Forward Operation Sites, Cooperative Security Locations and forces numerous installations of the US Air Force for instance have been located in Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Oman and Turkey. The US also has had air defence systems deployed in the region in Kuwait, UAE, Turkey and other allied states⁸³. In addition, the US has had at least one, while normally two aircraft carriers deployed in the region at any time [4]. The discussed presence ensures easy access for the US in the region, the ability to react fast and serves as a proof of the commitment to protect allies.

Strategic interest in maintaining the flow of energy from the Middle East;

There is also an important economic side of the US national interest in the Middle East. In addition to numerous military contracts, the US exports billion worth of goods from allied countries in the region. Nevertheless, the most important economic priority has been the one connected with the oil supply from the region. As the states in the Gulf for instance produced almost third of world's oil yearly production in 2015 the US has imported approximately twenty percent of it during first six months of the year alone [5]. Even though, President Obama pursued policies which ensure the increase of the US energy independence he has been giving a credit to the partners in the Gulf for the oil supply: while outlining the US priorities in the Middle East, the President committed to ensure the free flow of energy from the Middle East to the world, as it still depends on the resources from the region and the disruption could destabilise global economy [6].

US moral interests in the Middle East;

Participatory government, promotion of democracy and human rights

Promotion of democracy, human rights and encouragement of participatory government has been a traditional moral element of the US foreign policy to the Middle East.

A certain prejudice to the democratisation efforts appeared under the Presidency of George W. Bush, when Hezbollah and Hamas were supported in the elections in Lebanon and Gaza respectively. In addition to the experience of pro-Husseini Iraq, these anti-American democratic results of elections put Middle Eastern democratisation efforts into an ambiguous perspective [7]. Having inherited Bush's prejudice, President Obama declared his stance on the issue of the promotion of democracy and human rights during his rather idealistic speech at Cairo University in mood of principles of justice, tolerance and dignity of all human beings. He stated that "no system of government can or should be imposed upon one nation by any other" with the reference to the controversial US experience in Iraq. But at the same time the President stressed on his commitment "to governments that reflect the will of the people"[8] Next year, in the address to the UN General Assembly Obama pointed out that the ultimate success of democracy won't appear because the US dictates it, but "because individual citizens demand a say in how they are governed"[9].

The importance of human rights to Obama's policy in the Middle East has been stressed by the President in his speech at Cairo University, where he called attention to the significance of human's dignity, freedom of religion, women's rights, free speech, and freedom of peaceful assembly. He also referred to the "daily humiliations" and "intolerable" humanitarian situation which Palestinians face under Israeli occupation⁹⁰. While receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, the President expressed his respect to Iranian Green Movement which had secularism, democracy, social liberalism and human rights as its ideological principles. Obama also emphasized on the importance of following the Geneva Conventions in war times [10].

Obama's rhetoric on democracy promotion and human rights intensified after the Arab Spring wave covered the region by uprisings. The President stated that promoting reforms across the region and supporting transitions to democracy would become the policy of the United States [11]. Narrowing it down, Obama encouraged democratic movements in Tunisia, Egypt, Syria while avoiding the declarative encouragement in similar other cases in the region[12]. In his speech to the United Nations in 2013, President Obama separated the democracy promotion from the US core interests in the region[13]. The reason for such a shift can be explained by understanding of the mutually exclusive relationship between the security ties of the US with authoritarian but reliable regimes and democratisation.

There has been a certain ambiguity Barack Obama had to face while taking up with the democracy promotion. First of all, authoritarian regimes either invited or favoured terrorism. Egypt under the rule of Hosni Mubarak, Libya under Muammar Qaddafi and Yemen under Ali Abdul Salih supplied terrorist groups with the grievances which they could take advantage of and generated a bunch of potential recruits. On the other hand, while picking to support the promotion of democracy, the US had to abandon allied governments, having no clue about the potentially elected ones. The above described experiences from Lebanon and Palestinian territories hinted, that democracy can lead to the institutionalisation of anti-Americanism. Furthermore, as the movement

of country's system toward democracy weakens the government, terrorist and radical groups could exploit the moment to their advantage.

To outlined and assessed major threats, challenges and priorities the US was facing in the region. Given the presence of Al-Qaida branches AQI, AQAP, AQIM in the region, active ISIL and other regional terrorist groups as Hamas and Hezbollah, threats coming from terrorism were highly prioritised by Obama. Even though, the threats coming from the proliferation of WMDs were senior, majority of initial administration's rhetoric was focused on the particular issue of Iranian nuclear program, concerns about which were preeminent. The thesis also found that in pursuit of strategic and moral interests Obama has also committed to supporting key partners in the region, ensuring the flow of energy, encouraging democratic progress and human rights, finding a solution to Israeli Palestinian stalemate.

Literature:

1. B. Obama, Remarks by the President at Cairo University, June 09, 2009
2. D. Byman, S.B. Moller, "The United States and the Middle East: Interests, Risks, Costs" in J. Suri and B. Valentino, Sustainable Security: Rethinking American National Security Strategy, Oxford University Press, 2016, p. 6
3. B. Obama, Remarks by the President at AIPAC Policy Conference, March 04, 2012
4. J. Goldberg "Look... It's My Name on This': Obama Defends the Iran Nuclear Deal", The Atlantic, May 21, 2015
5. J. Goldberg, "Look... It's My Name on This': Obama Defends the Iran Nuclear Deal", The Atlantic, May 21, 2015
6. D. Byman, S.B. Moller, "The United States and the Middle East: Interests, Risks, Costs" in J. Suri and B. Valentino, Sustainable Security: Rethinking American National Security Strategy, Oxford University Press, 2016, p. 3
7. J. Stewart, S. Fellman, "Pentagon: US Navy Carrier Fleet Cut to One in Gulf." Defense News, February 6, 2013
8. "2015 Crude Oil Imports from Persian Gulf Highlights," US Energy Information Administration, 2015
9. B. Obama, , Remarks by President Obama in Address to the United Nations General Assembly, September 24, 2013
10. D. Byman, S.B. Moller, "The United States and the Middle East: Interests, Risks, Costs" in J. Suri and B. Valentino, Sustainable Security: Rethinking American National Security Strategy, Oxford University Press, 2016, p. 18-21
11. B. Obama, Remarks by the President at Cairo University, June 09, 2009
12. B. Obama, Remarks by the President to the United Nations General Assembly, September 23, 2010
13. B. Obama, Remarks by the President at Cairo University, June 09, 2009
14. B. Obama, Remarks by the President at the Acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize, December 10, 2009
15. B. Obama, Remarks by the President on the Middle East and North Africa, May 19, 2011
16. T. Omestad "President Obama: US Supports Democratic Movements in the Middle East and North Africa, Pushes for Middle East Peace", United States Institute for Peace, May 20, 2011
17. B. Obama, Remarks by President Obama in Address to the United Nations General Assembly, September 24, 2013