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THE KURDISH FACTOR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ITS ROLE IN THE SYRIAN CONFLICT

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First and foremost, the Kurdish problem is not something that is emerging here and now. For almost a century, the Kurds have struggled to free themselves from central control and overcome their landlocked location. Today, a rapidly changing region is presenting them with new allies and fresh opportunities. Consequently, there is a good reason to doubt that the Kurds will defer their quest for statehood once again. This is what makes the report ever more topical.

The headlines of the most authoritative sources such as the Foreign Affairs Journal, the World Politics Review and the Foreign Policy Magazine often run as follows: «The Kurdish factor is getting more and more influential...»; «The Kurdish factor changes the dynamic of the political events in the Middle East...»; «The Kurdish factor plays its role in Syrian war...», nevertheless it is impossible to find the exact definition of this very factor provided by a media pundit. What can be said with certainty is that the Kurdish factor consists of the following components: large ethnic minorities of Kurds are represented in Iraq, Turkey, Syria and North Western parts of Iran, where they claim their right to self-determination, that conflicts with the national policies of the above-listed states; more or less organized Kurdish movement promotes the idea of independence, supported by the following popular among the Kurds parties: the Kurdistan Workers' Party in Turkey, the Democratic Union Party in Syria and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Iraq; the Kurdish minority has beneficial positions in the economy of Iraq because of possessing on its territory the huge energy reserves (oil, gas and other minerals resources). In 2012 the Kurds produced 175,000 barrels of oil a day [1]; the Kurdish armed forces mostly remain outside the law (the Kurdish fighters in Syria, guerrillas in Turkey) with the exception of «peshmerga», the official army of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq, which formation became possible after the USA invasion of the state in 2003 and adoption of a new constitution.

Thus, the Kurdish factor is based on shared national interests, confluence of political objectives and economic interdependence of Kurdish communities in the Middle East.

The Syrian Kurds are likely to draw lessons and follow the successful example of the Iraqi Kurds in establishing an enclave of their own while the rest of the country is involved in war. Actually, the Iraqi Kurdish forces have already started training the Syrian Kurdish fighters [2]. The Syrian war has allowed the Kurds, occupying the far northeast of the country, to carve out a relatively autonomous and stable region, free of government and, what's more important, rebel control. The Syrian Kurds are pushing for self-rule and there is nothing Turkey or anybody else can do with this reality. Syrian Kurdistan has started on its way to acquire the trappings of a state [3].

So, what might that situation in Syria look like in consideration of further Kurdish struggle? Possible scenarios are the following: a political settlement; the restoration of a «national» government under a new strongman; permanent partition; a terrorist redoubt, however the most likely progression of events including all involved actors is a continuing armed conflict lasting many years.

On overall, many external observers of the conflict in Syria view Kurdish community as a potential «king-maker». Syria's Kurds represent a large undecided group, and the military capabilities of their cross-border brethren in Iraq conjure images of a well-armed peshmerga that could tip the military balance[4]. Now it is more than certain that the Kurdish issue will grasp the world's headlines over the coming years. Here you have the freedom of choice in what way to treat the Kurdish factor, and hopefully, while there is a conflict and different ways to prevent it from escalating, the solution will be finally found.

Литература

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GAMBLING: TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

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A person is gambling whenever he or she takes the chance of losing money or belongings, and when winning or losing is decided mostly by chance. While some may consider gambling only to be associated with casinos and racetracks, there are countless activities that are considered gambling.