

Contents

Acknowledgements

This book is the result of a number of studies on Russian foreign policy in the Middle East conducted by the author in 2012 – 2016. I would like to express my gratitude to those organizations that in different times funded and/or

Introduction	1
1 Russian Presence in the Middle East after the Fall of the Soviet Union	5
2 The Disaster Called the Arab Spring	15
3 Putin's Turn to the Middle East after 2012	25
4 Why is Syria so Important? Moscow's Vision of its Tasks in Syria prior to the Beginning of Russian Military Deployment	43
5 Russian Military Involvement in the Syrian Conflict: What Happens Next?	59
6 The Marriage of Convenience: Russian-Iranian Cooperation in Syria	75
7 Syria, the Middle East and Russian Propaganda	91
Conclusion	97
Notes	101
Annex 1	117
Annex 2	120
Bibliography	122
References	131
Index	133