

EDITORS' PREFACE & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Textual Content

The editorial staff of East View Press extend their gratitude to the following publications for granting permission for their articles to be included in this volume:

Ekspert
Izvestia
Kommersant
Meduza
The Moscow Times
The New Times
Nezavisimaya gazeta
Novaya gazeta
RBC Daily
Republic.ru (formerly known as Slon.ru, until November 2016)
Rossiiskaya gazeta
Strategic Culture Foundation Online Journal
Vedomosti

All material in this collection was originally published in the *Current Digest of the Russian Press* (© East View Information Services, ISSN 2159-3612 print, 2159-3639 online), except for the following articles:

AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR KURDS WILL DIVIDE SYRIA INTO ZONES OF INFLUENCE (By Andrei Ontikov, *Izvestia*, June 2, 2016, <https://iz.ru/news/616343>)

SYRIAN ARMY TO REIN IN OPERATION EUPHRATES SHIELD (By Nikolai Surkov and Andrei Ontikov, *Izvestia*, March 4, 2017, <http://iz.ru/news/668610>)

All articles were originally published in Russian, except for those in *Moscow Times* and *Strategic Culture Foundation Online Journal*, which appeared in English; in the latter cases, some phrasing has been edited for stylistic purposes.

In addition, some articles (both translations and reprints) have been condensed for brevity. Text omitted by East View editors is designated with an ellipsis (. . .). In other cases, the staff of the original publication chose to condense certain text (for example, a quotation from a public speech); such omissions are indicated by asterisks (***) within a paragraph. These are not to be confused with three asterisks appearing alone and centered on a separate line, which indicate the conclusion of an “Editors’ Note” provided in the original publication.

The East View editors have chosen to provide some additional information that we consider helpful for the general English-speaking audience’s understanding. Such information can be found in annotations and footnotes within the articles. All such additions are indicated in brackets, and longer annotations are attributed to *Trans*. Supplemental information provided by the editors of the original publication is included in parentheses with the attribution *Ed*.

More detailed and extensive clarifications, as well as other background information, are provided in endnotes following the main text.

Transliteration

All transliterations in this book are based on the Russian spellings of proper nouns using a system that is a compromise between strict orthographic equivalence and phonetic equivalence. The aim is to establish consistency in the presentation of proper nouns throughout the text, maps and photographs, and to enable readers who do not know Russian to approximate the pronunciation of transliterated words, while still allowing readers familiar with Russian to identify the words in question.

Photographs and Maps

Unless otherwise indicated below the image itself, all photographs in this book are attributed to the Russian Defense Ministry and are licensed under Creative Commons 4.0. They have been resized for this publication. Captions to the images have been adapted from those accompanying the images on the English-language version of the “Air Force group in Syria” page of the Defense Ministry Web site (<http://syria.mil.ru/en/index/syria.htm>) and have been formatted according to CDRP style guidelines. No warranties are given as to authenticity or accuracy.

We gratefully acknowledge the staff at East View Geospatial (geospatial.com) for preparing the maps in this volume, using source material copyrighted by OpenStreetMap (OSM) contributors.