

## **«ISRAEL IN STRUGGLE: THE OUTLINES OF CONTRADICTIONS IN POLITICS, ECONOMICS, AND SOCIETY»**

The 2022 International Academic Israel Studies Conference of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences "Readings Named After A.E. Bovin" will focus on the most relevant, and at the same time fundamental issues that have conflict potential both in the Israeli state and society, as well as in the region and the world as a whole. The continuing confrontation between global and regional centers of power, the clash of political interests in Israel, the conflict potential of the socio-economic situation, and the anniversary of a number of important events make it relevant to talk about the diversity of struggles around Israel. Moreover, the conference will also serve as a platform for an updated discussion of the ideology of Zionism, its new manifestations, and the phenomenon of anti-Semitism today.

A new addition to this year's conference will be a round table discussion on the methodology of historical, political, and economic research, which is relevant to contemporary Israel studies.

The organizing committee welcomes applications that match the chosen themes, but please do not limit yourself to them.

### **MAIN TOPICS**

#### **1. Looking for Outlines and Differences: post/neo/anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism**

Zionism as an ideology continues to be relevant. At the same time, it seems interesting to consider its updated versions. It is also important to analyze new forms of discourse in which anti-Zionism is traditionally equated with anti-Semitism.

#### **2. Israel and the Middle East: new Threats and New Opportunities**

The historic agreements between Israel and a number of Arab states have largely been achieved because of their common security interests in the face of threats posed by Iran. At the same time, the desire of external players to conclude a new agreement with Iran is opposed by Israeli establishment, which considers it an insufficient guarantee of the country's security. The level of tension between Israel and Iran continues to rise. Against this background, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is being further marginalized and is shifting from the regional level to the domestic level. The prospects for resolving are increasingly linked to the possibility of establishing direct Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

#### **3. The Crisis of Parliamentarianism: In Search of a New Formula**

A series of snap elections has led to the formation of a coalition in Israel which, for the first time in history, includes both right-wing and Arab parties. At the same time the opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu continues to keep the highest personal approval rating. It seems important to discuss the margin of safety of such a coalition government, and whether its formation can be considered a new social contract.

#### **4. Historical Issues: The USSR and Conflicts in the Region - The Israeli Factor**

Historical research allows us to supplement and sometimes revise a number of assessments of the events that took place in the region. This makes it possible to draw some parallels with modern times and creates a broader picture of Soviet-Israeli relations during the conflict situation. This session welcomes consideration of historical events related to the clash or intersection of Soviet and Israeli interests in the region during the conflicts.

## **5. Identity Problems in the Jewish Section of Israeli Society**

The multifaceted nature of contemporary Jewish society in Israel has both strengths and vulnerabilities. Although there is a common Jewish identity, there are still facets of contradictions, whether on the level of religion or country of origin. In this regard, the reflection of these divisions and their resolution in all spheres of life (politics, economics, science, religion, art, sports, and culture) is of particular interest for research.

## **6. Problem Areas in the Israeli Economy**

The global problems caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the associated economic costs are reflected at the national level. It is important to consider not only the impact of these problems on the Israeli economy, but also the Israeli experience in dealing with them. At the same time, it is important to examine both the most successful and the traditionally weak sectors of the Israeli economy, taking into account the impact of the pandemic and the emergence of new opportunities in the region.

## **7. Israel and the Diaspora: The Struggle for Minds and Hearts**

Relations between Israel and the diaspora today face new challenges: there is a rethinking of the Israeli role and increasing contradictions within the diaspora and clashes over the Jewish state and its policies; different diasporas face Jewish identity crises and the problem of increasing anti-Semitism in the world. At the same time, Israel has to seek new formats of engagement with Jewish diasporas, including maintaining Jewish identity in them by continuing the policy of repatriation. An analysis of traditional and new ways and forms of the Jewish state's struggle for olim, as well as an exploration of the challenges associated with their adaptation, integration, and absorption in Israel, planned to be considered within the framework of this topic.

## **8. The Israeli Army and Military Industrial Complex under Digitalization and Militarization: Key Challenges**

The signing of peace agreements with Arab countries led to a qualitative change in the nature of new threats to Israel's security. This leads to the need to revise both the military strategy and the modernization of the military-industrial complex with the allocation of the most priority areas. In parallel, Israel continues to strengthen its position in the global arms market, successfully competing in new, more technologically complex segments. It is these issues that are planned to be considered within the framework of this session.

**If you wish to take part in the conference, please fill in the following form:**  
<https://shorturl.at/etxDI>