

Arman Mahmoudian, Ph.D.

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➤ EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. Politics and International Affairs**, School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, University of South Florida,
August 2017-May 2024
Dissertation Defense Date: March 19th
Title: *Russia and Iran's Shia Axis Cooperation in The Middle East: Its Nature and Implication U.S-Backer Middle Eastern Order*
- **Graduate Certificate Program**, Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Institute for the Study of Latin America and Caribbean (ISLAC), University of South Florida,
July 2022
Reflective Essay: *Russia-Latin America Relations*
- **M.A. International Relations**, Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Moscow, Russia,
June 2017
Thesis: *The Religious-Ethnic Conflict in Syria and Iraq: Its Causes and Potential Impact on the Future Geopolitical Development of the Middle East*
- **B.A. Law**, Islamic Azad University Central Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran,
July 2014
Honor Thesis: *The Syrian Civil War from the Perspective of International Law*

➤ RESEARCH INTEREST

-
- Regional Security in the Middle East
 - Russia's Foreign Policy
 - Iran's Regional Policy
 - Iranian-Russian Relation
 - Great Power Competition in the Middle East
 - Intelligence Studies

➤ SOFTWARE SKILLS

- FBIC Index
- Google Analytics
- R Studio (programming language for statistical computing and graphics)
- Website Design: WordPress & Wix

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Data Collection and Analytics
- Analytical Program Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Journalism and Interview Techniques
- Online Teaching (Online Instructor Certification from USF)

➤ TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Adjunct Professor, Judy Genshaft Honors College, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL,
Fall 2020- Present

▪ **Spring 2024**

- "The Ukraine War: A New Battlefield for the West" (In-person)
- "Power Politics in the Middle East" (In-person)

▪ **Fall 2023**

- "From the Great Wars to the New Cold War" (In-person)
- "The Rise of Authoritarian Russia: What Went Wrong" (In-person)

▪ **Summer 2023**

- "US Foreign Policy toward Russia: Limits and Goals" (In-person)

▪ **Spring 2023**

- "Great Power Competition: Is Sustainable Global Peace Doomed?" (In-person)
- "International Security: Why Do States Choose War?" (In-person)

▪ **Fall 2022**

- "The Politics of The Russian Federation: From the Second Chechnya War to the Invasion of Ukraine" (In-person)
- "The Long-lasting Struggles of the Arab Middle East: From the Fall of the Ottoman Empire to the Dawn of the Arab Spring" (In-person)

▪ **Summer 2022**

- "The Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Implications for Russia and the World" (In-person)

▪ **Spring 2022**

- "Sectarianism and Terrorism in the Middle East: From Afghanistan to Lebanon" (In-person)
- "Socio-political Developments in the New Russia" (In-person)

▪ **Fall 2021**

- "International Security: Why Do States Behave the Way They Do" (In-person)
- "A New Global Struggle: The Return of the Cold War" (In-person)

▪ **Spring 2021**

- "Contemporary Russia and Eurasia in the Post-Soviet Union Era" (In-person & Online)

▪ **Fall 2020**

- "Contemporary Middle East: Political Challenges in the Global Age" (In-person & Online)

➤ PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES / PROJECTS

Research Assistant, University of South Florida, Global & National Security Institute, Tampa, FL.

July 2023-Present

- Produce regular internal and external research papers.
- Write reports on events including summits, conferences, and policy dialogues.
- Assist in the editorial process for external research papers.

Adjunct Faculty, University of South Florida, Judy Genshaft College of Honors, Tampa, FL

August 2020-Present

- Teach courses on the Middle East, Russia, and International Security.
- Mentor students in research projects.
- Organize in-class talks with esteemed experts.

Analyst, Gulf States Analytics Consultation Firm, Washington D.C

January 2021-October 2022

- Analyzed Russia's strategy in the Middle East.
- Authored and co-authored analytical pieces on Iran's regional policy and other Middle Eastern topics.

Research Assistant, USF Great Power Competition Program, Tampa, FL

May 2021-May 2023

- Assisted with book projects on "India-Iran Relation in Afghanistan" and "Great Power Competition in the Post-Covid19 Era".
- Translated official Iranian documents regarding the Chabahar Port from Persian (Farsi) to English.
- Conducted data collection on investments by India in Iran and China in Pakistan.
- Analyzed prospective partnerships between China-Pakistan and India-Iran over Central Asia and Afghanistan.

Graduate Assistant, USF World, Vice President Office, Tampa, FL

May 2022-August 2022

- Assisted Dr. Kiki Caruson, USF World Vice President, with research on the need for public schools to develop foreign strategies to counter international challenges.

Data Analyst, USF World Global Alumni, Tampa, FL

May 2021-August 2021

- Established a database of the University of South Florida's international alumni, focusing on the Middle East, South, and Central Asia.
- Developed culturally-aware marketing communication strategies.
- Designed marketing flyers and mass emails.

Research Associate, USF College of Art and Science, Tampa, FL

August 2020-May 2021

- Assisted Dr. Mohsen Milani with his book project, including data collection, translation of references, and analysis on Hezbollah, Amal Movement, Shia Militia in Iraq, Iranians' relation with Shia movements in the region before and after Islamic Revolution, IRGC

Graduate Assistant, Center for Strategic & Diplomatic Studies, Tampa, FL

December 2017-August 2020

- Served as the primary research assistant on Middle Eastern affairs, producing over 50 detailed reports.
- Managed office responsibilities, communication, event planning, and online presences.

Remote Editorial Board Member, The Institute for Iran-Eurasia Studies, Tehran, Iran

June 2015-March 2018

- Analyzed Russian-Iranian cooperation agreements and Russia’s influence in the Middle East.
- Produced and published eight analyses on Russia's domestic and Middle Eastern policies.

Marketing Representative, “Iranian Ghadir Trading Development”, Moscow, Russia

October 2016-May 2017

- Established the Moscow office, overseeing local recruitment and market analysis.

The Editorial Board Member, “Russia Viewers”, Moscow, Russia

June 2016-August 2016

- Reviewed and analyzed reports on Russia’s foreign policy.

Legal Intern, Maroon Consultants Engineering Company, Tehran, Iran

February 2014-July 2015

- Represented property ownership litigation cases in court.
- Managed PR for the company's Executive Director and generated technical reports.

Volunteer Librarian, The New Youth Library, Tehran, Iran

October 2013-January 2014

- Organized the History Section and digitalized lists.
- Consulted with students on book and document recommendations.

Office Assistant and Legal Intern, Farzan Law Firm, Tehran, Iran

August 2010-December 2013

- Managed case initiations and client communications.
- Administered office tasks including report writing, appointment scheduling, and client updates.

➤ **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

- **Peer Review**, Cogent Arts & Humanities Spring 2024
- **Committee Member**, Honor Thesis, J. Rehman Spring 2023
- **Undergraduate Student Research Mentor**, USF 2022 OneUSF Undergraduate Research Conference Spring 2022
- **Peer Review**, Journal of Religious History Fall 2021
- **Research Affiliates**, USF Center for Strategic & Diplomatic Studies, (Tampa, Florida) May 2021-Present
- **Academic Facilitator**, USF Global Citizen Project, (Tampa, Florida) Summer 2020- Fall 2021
- **Non-resident Editorial Board Member**, The Institute for Iran-Eurasia Studies,(Tehran, Iran) June 2015-March 2017
- **The Editorial Board Member**, “Russia Viewers” (Moscow, Russia) June 2016-August 2016

➤ **PUBLICATIONS**

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- “Comparative Study on the Soviet Union and Russian Federation’s Syria Policy,” Under the review of Joint Special Operation University
- “Echoes of Espionage: The Evolutionary Journey of Russia’s Intelligence Community,” In the process of submission to the International Security Journal

BOOK CHAPTER

- “[The War in Ukraine: The Transition Point of Russia-Iran Relations](#),” in Adib Farhadi(ed) *The Great Power Competition Volume 5: Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine*. Berlin: Springer, 2023, pp. 141-160.
- “[A Comparative Study on Iraq and Afghanistan: Two Nations, Similar Journeys, Different Destinations](#),” in Adib Farhadi(ed) *The Great Power Competition Volume 4: LeSean Learned in Afghanistan: America’s Longest War*. Berlin: Springer, 2023, pp. 291-316.
- “[The Iranian-Russian Cooperation in Syrian Civil War: A New Battle Ground in Great Power Competition](#),” in Adib Farhadi(ed) *The Great Power Competition Volume II: Contagion Effect: Radicalization, Unrest, and Competition in the COVID-19 Era*. Berlin: Springer, 2022, pp. 185-204.

OP-ED ESSAYS (In English)

- “Iran’s “Escalation and De-escalation Strategy” Toward Conflict in the Red Sea,” *Gulf International Forum*, March 25, 2024| [Read Here](#)
- “Moscow Attack Reflects Russian Intelligence Weakness and ISIS-K Ambition,” *The Henry L. Stimson Center*, March 25, 2024| [Read Here](#)
- “Kerman Terrorist Attack Highlights Iranian Intelligence Failures,” *The Henry L. Stimson Center*, January 10, 2024| [Read Here](#)
- “Why Iran Sent the Houthis to War Against Israel.” *The National Interest*, December 20, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “The Future and Ethics of Uncrewed and Autonomous Warfare,” *Global & National Security Institute*, December 06, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Israel-Hamas Conflict: Operational Considerations and Strategy .” *Global & National Security Institute*, September 09, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Azerbaijan Control of Nagorno-Karabakh: Geopolitical Implications for Iran, Russia and Turkey,” *Gulf International Forum*, October 14, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Hamis is only one of four Iranian fronts against Israel,” *The Henry L. Stimson Center*, October 12, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Why Didn’t Israel See the Hamas War Coming.” *The National Interest*, October 08 10, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Playing Defense: Russia’s New Ukraine Strategy.” *The National Interest*, September 10, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Russia-Iran Military Cooperation: The Dynamic is Changing Dramatically Because of Drones in The Ukraine War.” *Global & National Security Institute*, September 06, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “GNSI Decision Brief: What Keeps the US in the Middle East” With Tad Schnauffer II. *Global & National Security Institute*, September 06, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Russia-Israel relations before and after the Ukraine War,” *Trends Research and Advisory*, August 23, 2023| [Read Here](#)

- “GNSI Policy Dialogues: Hunger as a Weapon.” With Funmi Odumosu and Tad Schnauffer II. *Global & National Security Institute*, August 10, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Lonely but Not Alone: Iran and Its Neighbors,” *Gulf International Forum*, July 28, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Economic incompatibility limits Russia-Iran ties,” *The Henry L. Stimson Center*, July 13, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine: Implications for the Central Region.” With Tad Schnauffer II. *Global & National Security Institute*, June 12, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Preparing for the Next Supreme Leader,” *Gulf International Forum*, July 28, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Iran’s Victory in Syria is not Worry Free,” *The Henry L. Stimson Center*, May 24, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Iran’s Identity Warfare: The Making of the Shia Brotherhood,” *Gulf International Forum*, April 23, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Iran fears rising Israeli & Turkish Influence in Azerbaijan,” *The Henry L. Stimson Center*, April 18, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Iranian Nuclear Program: Tough Choices for the United States.” With Giorgio Cafiero. *Gulf International Forum*, March 29, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Calls to appease Putin in Ukraine ignore the lessons of History,” *Atlantic Council*, March 09, 2023. | [Read Here](#)
- “Russia’s Financial Defense Mechanism against the Western Sanctions,” *Trends Research and Advisory*, January 20, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “How is Russia’s Parallel Currency System Going?.” With Sina Azodi. *Responsible Statecraft*, October 12, 2022. | [Read Here](#)
- “Russia’s Latin America Strategy: From Catherine the Great to Vladimir Putin,” *Trends Research and Advisory*, September 16, 2022| [Read Here](#)
- “Russia-Ukraine War: Implication for the RSII Coalition,” *Trends Research and Advisory*, June 3, 2022| [Read Here](#)
- “Russian Identity Warfare,” *Trends Research and Advisory*, February 22, 2022| [Read Here](#)
- “The Peaceful Rising of the Silent Dragon in the Middle East,” *Harvard Kennedy School’s the Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy*, December 17, 2021| [Read Here](#)
- “Russia and the UAE’s growing synergy in Syria.” With Giorgio Cafiero. *New Arab*, July 27, 2021| [Read Here](#)
- “What Iran Wants from the Taliban.” With Giorgio Cafiero. *The Limes Magazine*, September 18, 2021| [Read Here](#)
- “The Afghan Factor in Biden’s Iran Foreign Policy. “With Giorgio Cafiero. *Politics Today*, March 20, 2021| [Read Here](#)
- “Does Russia really want a US return to the Iran deal?” With Giorgio Cafiero. *Atlantic Council*, January 19, 2021| [Read Here](#)
- “Syrian Kurds: From Ignored Minority to Game-Changing Actor,” *The Globe Post*, June 3, 2019. | [Read Here](#)

- “Iran’s Alliance with Russia in Syria: Marriage of Convenience or Strategic Partnership.” With Sina Azodi. *Atlantic Council*, September 19, 2018. | [Read Here](#)
 - “Israel and Iran’s hidden war in Syria is now out in the open,” *Middle East Eye*, February 12, 2018. | [Read Here](#)
- **INVITED TALKS, KEYNOTES, AND PUBLIC SPEAKING**

ENGAGEMENTS INVITED SPEAKING

Subject: “External and Internal Setting of Iran’s Regional Policy”

- **Event:** Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College
- **Location:** St. Petersburg, Florida, United States
- **Date:** March 22, 2024. [Watch the Lecture Here](#)

Subject: “Iran’s Regional Policy”

- **Event:** St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs
- **Location:** St. Petersburg, Florida, United States
- **Date:** February 07, 2024.

Subject: “Russia-Iran Military Assistance”

- **Event:** Transatlantic Forum on Russia, Center for New American Security (CNAS)
- **Location:** Washington D.C, United States
- **Date:** June 20, 2023.

Subject: “Russia and Iran’s Relations in Iraq”

- **Event:** London School of Economy’s Middle East Center’s workshop on “The Russian-Iranian Partnership in The Middle East: Challenges and Opportunities”
- **Location:** London, England
- **Date:** April 1, 2021. [Read the Presented Paper Here](#)

Subject: “Iran’s Foreign Policy”

- **Event:** The international conference of “Problems of Global Management, Economy, Politics and Security”
- **Location:** Moscow, Russia
- **Date:** November 26, 2015. [Read the Conference Format Here](#)

PRESENTATION

Subject: “Iranian-Russia Cooperation in Syrian Civil War to Save Assad’s Regime”

- **Event:** Florida Political Science Association Annual Conference
- **Location:** Tampa, Florida
- **Date:** March 27, 2021. [See the Format Here](#)

Subject: “UN Responds to the Crisis in Syria”

- **Event:** The Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia, Round Table on “Effective of Peacekeeping Operation of the UN”
- **Location:** Moscow, Russia
- **Date:** October 15, 2016.

CO-PRESENTATION

Role: Assistant Speaker to Dr. Mandana Tishehyar

- **Subject:** “Economic-Regional Cooperation in Afghanistan and the New Theory of Regionalism”
- **Location:** Moscow, Russia
- **Date:** November 20, 2015.

➤ MEDIA COVERAGE

- “The Impact of US Sanctions on Russia,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, February 23, 2024| [Watch Here](#)
- “The Limits of US Retaliations Against Iran-Backed Militias,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, February 03, 2024| [Watch Here](#)
- “Iran’s Strategy of Gradually Intensifying Fatal Attacks Against US,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, January 29, 2024| [Watch Here](#)
- “The Recent Escalation between Israel and Hezbollah,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, January 08, 2024| [Watch Here](#)
- “ Hamas’s Military Strategy in the War Against Israel,” (In Portuguese) *Observador*, January 01, 2024| [Read Hear](#)
- “Houthis’ Military Capabilities,” (In Ukrainian) *Liga.net*, December 29, 2023| [Read Hear](#)
- “Putin’s Speech on Russia’s Unchanged Objectives in Ukraine ,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, December 14, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “US Veto of the United Nations Security Council Resolution for an Immediate Ceasefire in the Gaza Strip,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, December 09, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “Latest Developments in the Israel-Hamas Conflict,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, October 28, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “Ukraine's Recent Advance Towards the Southeastern City of Tokmak,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, September 06, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “Putin’s Loyal Friends in Tehran,” (In German) *Deutsche Welle*, Interview, July 03, 2023| [Read Here](#)
- “Turkey-Iran Relation,” (In English) *Aljazeera TV Balkan*, Interview, May 14, 2021| [Watch Here](#)
- “UN missile restrictions on Iran’s Arms Sales,” (In Ukrainian) *Liga.net*, October 02, 2023| [Read Hear](#)
- “The Impact of the Recent Conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh on Russia’s position in Caucasus,” (In Ukrainian) *Liga.net*, September 20, 2023| [Read Hear](#)
- “Secretary Blinken’s Visit to Ukraine,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, September 06, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “Implications of Wagner’s Mutiny on the Ukrainian War,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, June 24, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “President Zelensky’s NATO Membership Request,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, June 1, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “Expansion of Russia’s Military Ties with the Kyrgyzstan,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, May 8, 2023, | [Watch Here](#)
- “The Normalization of Relations between the Arab World and Syria,” (In English) *Aljazeera TV Balkan*, Interview, May 02, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “Potential Russian Possible Responses to Finland’s NATO Membership,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, April 04, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “The Downed US Drone by the Russia,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, March 15, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “Ukraine War: NATO vs. Shanghai Organization,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, February 23, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “China’s Role in the Russo-Ukrainian War,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, February 19, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “Iran’s Intentions Behind Supplying Drones to Russia,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, February 13, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “Recent Signals of Moscow’s Openness to Diplomatic Solutions,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, October 14, 2023| [Watch Here](#)
- “The Russian-Ukrainian Conflict: Transition to a War of Attrition,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, August 25, 2022| [Watch Here](#)
- “Challenges and Setbacks Faced by the Russian Army in Ukraine,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, July 29, 2022| [Watch Here](#)
- “NATO’s Expansion Initiative in Scandinavia,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, June 29, 2022| [Watch Here](#)

- “The Russia-Ukraine Conflict and its Implication for Global Food Security,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, June 21, 2022| [Watch Here](#)
- “The impact of the Russia-Ukraine War on the Middle East,” (In English) *Aljazeera TV Balkan*, Interview, April 29, 2022| [Watch Here](#)
- “The Russia Diaspora,” (In English) *The Christian Science Monitor*, Quotes, April 26, 2021| [Read Here](#)
- “The Growing Chance of the fall of Mariupol into Hands of Russia,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, April 22, 2022| [Watch Here](#)
- “Russia’s latest Ambush against the Mariupol,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, April 20, 2022| [Watch Here](#)
- “The Sinking of Russia’s Flagship Moskva,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, April 15, 2022| [Watch Here](#)
- “Sanctions against Russia are Double-edge Sword,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, April 07, 2022| [Watch Here](#)
- “New Shifts in Russia’s Military Strategy,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, April 05, 2022| [Watch Here](#)
- “Turkey’s Meditation between Russia and Ukraine,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, March 17, 2022| [Watch Here](#)
- “The Impact of International Pressure on Russia and its invasion of Ukraine,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, March 15, 2022| [Watch Here](#)
- “Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine,” (In Farsi) *BBC Persia*, Interview, March 01, 2022| [Watch Here](#)
- “Will Biden push Saudi Arabia closer to Russia,” (In English) *Daily Sabah*, Quotes, February 26, 2021| [Read Here](#)
- “Iranian Intrigue: Rouhani Rejects Zarif’s Resignation,” (In English) *Sputnik News Agency*, Interview, March 2, 2019. | [Listen Here](#)
- “Iran wants Syrian Kurds to depend on Damascus” (In English) *Kurdistan 24*, Quotes, December 7, 2018.| [Read Here](#)
- “Iran: Regime Change by Sanctions?” (In English) *Sputnik News Agency*, Interview, July 7, 2018. | [Listen Here](#)

➤ AWARDS, HONORS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- **Center for Strategic & Diplomatic Studies’ Summer 2023 Scholarship**, University of South Florida September 2023
- **Distinguished International Student**, University of South Florida November 2022
- **Bringing World into our Classroom**, University of South Florida, Judy Genshaft College of Honors USF MOSAIC 2022
- **USF United Support Fund**, University of South Florida June 2020
- **Milani Scholarship**, University of South Florida October 2019
- **Best Master Thesis Defense Performance**, Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia (Moscow) June 2017

➤ PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- International Studies Association June 2020-Present
- American Political Science Association February 2019-Present
- Center for Strategic & Diplomatic Studies December 2017-Present
- Editorial Board of the Institute for Iran and Eurasia Studies June 2015-March 2018

➤ LANGUAGES

- **English** – proficient in reading, writing, and speaking
- **Persian (Farsi)** – native language, fluent in reading, writing, and speaking
- **Russian** – Limited working proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking
- **Arabic**- Basic Understanding