

# Russian Intervention in Middle East Conflicts

a discussion with Dan Diker and Shoshana Bryen

by Jerry Gordon and Mike Bates (February 2016)

In the waning months of the Obama Administration, its lack of effective leadership in the war against the Islamic State and the civil war in Syria created a potentially dangerous power vacuum. The White House was pre-occupied with concluding a UN-endorsed pact, hoping to rein in Iran's quest for a nuclear capability – a capability that a number of analysts have concluded it may already have. Purported cooperative development may have been behind [North Korea's fourth nuclear test](#) since 2006 on January 6, 2016. While official propaganda from Pyongyang suggested that the test involved elements of a possible fusion or hydrogen bomb, a few astute observers [suggested](#) it might have been a so-called boosted fission weapon. [more>>>](#)