



Analysis of the mutations. Anticipation of the futures.

Newsletter N°2 – October 2009

EDITORIAL

At this autumn, the G-MAP news is buzzing. First noteworthy event, the launch of **Globe Expert** – <http://open.globe-expert.info> - the first online Analysis Support System of the International Information Flows. It is already a success with international organisations, research centres and SME's from different sectors. Currently, **Globe Expert** development staff keeps on improving the browsing functionalities and user-friendliness. They are also devising new support tools, which will not fail to amaze you. In order to enable you to discover them, if you are not yet a subscriber, we shall regularly organise "Open Days", giving you access to the whole site, its database and all the functionalities for free.

A first multidisciplinary and transverse working group was formed in September. It focuses on a related energy issue. After a preliminary brainstorming phase, a rich and promising research programme is currently written up and an agenda scheduled as well.

The G-MAP news is also its members' ones: their lectures, their publications... For myself, on **October 7th**, I shall speak at the opening conference of the European Security and Information System Congress, in Monaco.

On **October 12th**, **Nicolas Tenzer** will speak at "Monday at IHEDN" conference about "Future Power and Influence of France. Which Foreign Strategic Policy?" The conference is organised by Higher National Defence Studies and will be held in Military Academy (Paris). You can register at <http://www.ihedn.fr/lundis/index.php>.

On **October 20th**, **Cyril Musila**, specialist in geopolitics of African conflicts, will be David Milliat's guest on TV channel KTO, at 7.30 pm. He will analyse the situation in Uganda.

From the 16th to the 18th of September 2009, **Alain-Marc Rieu**, organised and led the discussions of the second part of the Cross Colloquium Lyon - Shanghai about "Knowledge and Society Today". It had for objective to study the Historical Status of Knowledge by comparing its conceptualisation both in the Chinese and the Western European traditions. It aimed at analysing the current transformation of the concept as well as of the position and organisation of knowledge in China and Western Europe. The first part of this colloquium had taken place in Shanghai, on 11th and 12th of April 2008. In Lyon, it took place at ENS-LSH (Ecole Normale Supérieure Lettres et Sciences Humaines) and Lyon III University, gathering together Canadian, Chinese, French and German academics. Facing China, a country that is now part of the knowledge society, a comprehension of the Chinese vision regarding this issue is crucial. To all those who kept a taste for philosophy and wish to afford themselves a short break in today's immediacy and flitting-orientated trend, I recommend to download the discussants' papers: <http://w7.ens-lsh.fr/amrieu/spip.php?article250>.

Last but not least, in last June **Marc Finaud** took part in the Amman Conference on "Nuclear Energy and Proliferation in Middle East". His lecture's text is now published on the **GCSP** (Geneva Centre for Security Policy) website as an occasional paper.

When issues related to its nuclear and ballistic programme place Iran at the forefront of the international news, while possibilities of Israeli-Palestinian conflict resolution seem more and more unpredictable, this French expert reports on the steps which the Middle Eastern countries could take in order to improve their own security as well as the regional and global ones. As based on multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation agreements, his approach and vision are pragmatic. Enjoy the excerpt we publish in the following pages! ■

Valerie FERT, G-MAP President



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THE MIDDLE EAST: A REGION ABOUNDING WITH ARMS

*Marc Finaud, French career diplomat, G-MAP founding member,
Director of short courses of the Geneva Centre for security Policy.*



It is no secret that the Middle East³ is one of the most heavily armed regions of the world. What is most worrying is the presence in the region of **weapons of mass destruction** (WMDs), some of which (chemical weapons) have been used therein. According to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, among the fifteen states of the world with confirmed or suspected nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons and/or programmes in 2002, six were in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region (Israel, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Syria, and Libya). Fortunately, this figure has now gone down with the dismantlement of Iraqi and Libyan weapons programmes, a highly symbolic demonstration that possession of WMDs is not an irreversible feature of international relations.

Compared to world **military spending** (\$226 billion in 2008, including \$607 billion just by the USA), the share of the Middle East may appear modest (\$75.6 billion, i.e. 6.17 percent). However a reason for concern is the increasing trend in the region's military spending. According to SIPRI, while global military spending increased by 45 percent in real terms over the decade 1998-2007, in the Middle East it is estimated that this increase reached 62 percent over the same period. In terms of military spending as a percentage of GDP, according to the *CIA World Factbook 2008*, among the top ten spending countries in the world, seven are from the Middle East, ranging from 11.4 to 6.6 percent of GDP (Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Israel, Yemen). In absolute terms, Saudi Arabia ranked eighth in the world for its military budget in 2007 (\$33.8 billion) and its share of the region's spending was 39 percent. It ranked ninth in 2008 with \$38.2 billion.

This upward trend in regional military spending can be explained by the continuation of conflicts in the region, but also by the availability of resources coming from oil and gas revenues, as is the case for most Gulf countries, although the latter are not directly involved in any of the Middle East conflicts.

The Middle East remains one of the main markets for the **arms trade**. Some Middle East countries are in the top four recipients from the main suppliers: for 2003-2007, according to SIPRI, Israel was the United States' second client with a 12 percent share of US exports, and the UAE its third with 9 percent; Turkey was the first client of Germany (15 percent); the UAE was France's first client (41 percent) and Saudi Arabia its third (9 percent). This made the UEA the 3rd largest world importer, Israel the 6th largest, and Egypt the 7th largest over that period.¹⁴ For the period 2004-2008, again according to SIPRI, the Middle East accounted for about 20 percent of all imports.



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Even in the area of **small arms and light weapons** (SALW), the Middle East ranks high both in size of stockpiles and number of firearms per 100 people. According to the *Small Arms Survey*, there were between 58 and 107 million such weapons in the MENA region in 2005, of which 45 to 90 million civilian held (77 to 84 percent) and 13-17 million for the military and police. Among the twelve countries with the highest number of firearms per 100 people in the world, Yemen comes second with 90, Iraq fifth with 50, and Saudi Arabia eleventh with 33.

Regarding **ballistic missiles**, which can be used both as conventional weapons and also to deliver WMDs, the situation is also quite worrying. Eight of the fifteen states of the region (Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE, Yemen) possess an arsenal of ballistic missiles ranging from 100 km to 1,500 km (Israel), 2,000 km (Iran), and 2,600 km (Saudi Arabia). After Israel, Iran can now also be considered as a space power, having put a satellite in orbit in February 2009. This means that half of the six states of the world possessing missiles over a 1,000-km range, apart from the five official nuclear-weapon states, are in the Middle East. ■

Access the full document:

http://www.gcsp.ch/e/publications/Security_Challenges/WMD/Occ_Papers/51-Finaud.pdf

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