Contents

	Introduction	1
1	Russian Presence in the Middle East after the Fall of the Soviet Union	5
2	The Disaster Called the Arab Spring	15
3	Putin's Turn to the Middle East after 2012	25
4	Why is Syria so Important? Moscow's Vision of its Tasks in Syria Prior to the Beginning of Russian Military Deployment	43
5	Russian Military Involvement in the Syrian Conflict: What Happens Next?	59
6	The Marriage of Convenience: Russian-Iranian Cooperation in Syria	75
7	Syria, the Middle East and Russian Propaganda	91
	Conclusion	97
	Notes	101
	Annex 1	117
	Annex 2	120
	Bibliography	122
	References	131
	Index	133