

## **Dear Reader,**

Since our last newsletter, the team of experts here at New Lines has conscientiously worked to remain abreast of the latest geopolitical developments in the Middle East and Eastern Europe so you have access to well-informed insights and forecast-driven policy recommendations. Our analyses have dived deep into the crucial role the U.S. should play in promoting democratic values across Russia, as well as in quelling rising tensions between Syria and Turkey.

According to Leyla Latypova, the U.S. has long viewed Russia as a monolithic entity, ignoring the vast country's diverse population. [In this timely analysis, she details why Washington must forge new connections with power centers outside of Moscow](#) as Russia moves to tighten its grip on semi-autonomous regions such as Tatarstan and Bashkortostan – in addition to its invasion of Ukraine.

[As Turkey intensifies its drone strikes against military and civilian targets in regions of Syria controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces \(SDF\)](#) and their civilian counterpart, the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), Calvin Wilder explains why the current state of military cooperation between the SDF and the regime will not necessarily translate to a political understanding between AANES and the regime.

[In the latest “Contours” podcast episode, Human Security Unit Director Faysal Itani invites Lebanese political activist Alaa Sayeg](#) to share personal anecdotes from his experience as an opposition politician in the May 2022 elections amid the worst economic situation in the country. This episode highlights the difficulties anti-regime activists face in the rigid Lebanese political system, as well as Hezbollah's role in the country.

[And in an exclusive, in-house book talk,](#) co-moderators Caroline Rose and Alice Hickson invited Ali Wyne, author of “America’s Great-Power Opportunity: Revitalizing U.S. Foreign Policy to Meet the Challenges of Strategic Competition,” to discuss his latest publication.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter!

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# How the U.S. Can Aid Regional Democracy in Russia

Leyla Latypova

Terrain Analysis, August 23, 2022



[Read Here](#)

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# The Limits of Northeast Syria's Talks with the Assad Regime

Calvin Harris

Net Assessment, August 22, 2022



[Read Here](#)

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# Inside the Lebanese Political System: the Operations of the Anti-Regime Opposition

Host: Faysal Itani

Guest: Alaa Sayeg

Contours Podcast, August 16, 2022



[Listen Here](#)

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## Featured Event

*America's Great Power Opportunity: A Book Talk with Ali Wyne*



Watch Here

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# Featured "New Lines Reads" Episode

*The Deteriorating Security Situation in Northeast Syria*



In this episode, New Lines' Calvin Wilder gives an overview of the situation on the front lines and shows ways Washington can de-escalate tensions and promote peace in the region. Turkey is threatening a third offensive into territory in northeast Syria controlled by the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). While pressure from both the U.S. and Russia may have put those plans on hold, smaller-scale violence continues to kill both soldiers and civilians and threaten the area's stability.

[Listen Here](#)



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## From the New Lines Magazine



### **Muslim and Arab Authorities Must Examine Their Blasphemy Claims**

**By: Kareem Shaheen**

**August 22, 2022**

[Read Here](#)



### **Within Afghanistan, Travel Checkpoints Reveal a New Uncertainty**

**Emron Feroz**

**August 22, 2022**

[Read Here](#)



### **In Karachi, Street Food Tells a Story of Division and Unity**

**By: Anmol Irfan**

**August 16, 2022**

[Read Here](#)

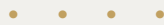
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## New Lines in the Media

New Lines' staff have been sharing their informed analysis of current geopolitical events with other media outlets. Read these highlights of their recent interviews and publications.

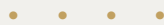
### New Lines Media Center



“The Iranians have a long-term plan to build a military infrastructure inside Syria to be used to pressure Israel. For this reason, the IRGC has been steadily building a presence within the Syrian military and security services.” [In Kurdistan 24](#)

Quoted- Nicholas A Heras

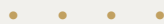
August 23, 2022



“The importance now is for both sides is to try have some kind of limited ceasefire agreement around this nuclear plant. This is something that both Turkey and the UN are trying to broker at this time.” [In TRT World](#)

Interviewed – Eugene Chausovsky

August 19, 2022

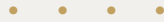




“For 20 years you’ve built an organization that was designed to fight, and you motivated people to engage in suicide bombings – they don’t turn into people who are government officials overnight.” in Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (HBO)

Featured – Kamran Bokhari

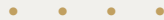
August 15, 2022



“Turkey Is the Biggest Swing Player in the Russia-Ukraine War” in Foreign Policy

By – Eugene Chausovsky

August 11, 2022



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**The New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy is a non-partisan think tank in Washington D.C. working to enhance U.S. foreign policy based on a deep understanding of the geopolitics of the different regions of the world and their value systems.**

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