

## **Russia tries to strengthen its influence in the Middle East region**

By Arie Egozi / April 29, 2023

Moscow is enhancing its efforts to gain more influence in the Middle East and the Gulf and fill the gap created by Washington's decision to decrease the American presence in the area.

Moscow takes advantage of the fact that the U.S. practically has withdrawn mainly from the Gulf region to achieve greater influence.

[...]

In a paper written by **Yoel Guzansky** and **Arkady Milman** from the **Institute for National Security Studies in Israel (INSS)**, the researchers say that new information indicates that US influence in the Middle East has been gradually declining, and Arab states in the region seek to mitigate risks by not solely identifying with one side or the other.

“This revelation joins reports from the past year regarding the extent of assistance to Russia: the UAE and Saudi Arabia, for example, purchased Russian oil – while bypassing sanctions on Moscow – and apparently sold it at a profit. The UAE also became a central destination for wealthy Russians who evaded sanctions, which prompted a flourishing real estate market in Dubai that became one of the transit hubs for goods into Russia for the “grey imports.” The number of Russian “tourists” in the UAE is now nearly one million. It was likewise reported that there are some 100 private planes owned by wealthy Russians parked at Dubai International Airport.”

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*For full article:*

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