**ISRAEL-75 YEARS: BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE FUTURE**

III International Scientific Israeli Studies Conference of the RAS Institute of Oriental Studies “Bovin Readings” in 2023 will be dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel, that means Conference will cover the most relevant events and fundamental issues related to the development of the country in a historical retrospective. Israel has come a long way from a community of immigrants (yishuv) on the verge of survival that was in a need of power institutions and an economic system, to a strong economically developed state. Nowadays Israel is a significant actor at the global level in a number of spheres and is rightfully ranked as one of the key players in the Middle East. Taking into account the diversity of processes that characterize Israeli society, its political system and the configuration of international relations, the Conference will focus on the following important questions: historical prerequisites for modern phenomena, trends in the study of the main state development periods, the most important events in Israel history and forecasting the development paths in the short and long term. At the Conference we would like to bring together specialists in history and modern state of the country so as to create the most complete picture of ​​the last 75 years and of the Israel potential for the future.

Traditionally, we organize a separate session for beginners in Israeli studies that presents an extended discussion with elements of an educational program. Being part of the youth session postgraduate, master's and undergraduate students will be able not only to improve their research work, but also to act as reviewers of their peers’ research.

The Organizing Committee welcomes if the applications fit into the main topics indicated below, but please do not limit yourself to them.

**MAIN TOPICS**

***Transformations in Israeli Society: Challenges and Opportunities***

In order to understand Israel internal politics it is important to analyze political views, demographic shifts, activity of civil society, diversity of social groups and their interaction. It is equally important to understand the dynamic changes in society: do they create a path to its unity or predict disunity? In this regard, it is proposed to consider the processes of social transformations in a broad context: their impact not only on political decision-making, but also on the existential aspect of the problem as a whole. Will Israeli society be able to change while maintaining its unique identity and cultural code? What specific transformational challenges are facing various segments of contemporary Israeli society?

***New and old alliances in a changing world***

The emergence of new contradictions in the world is accompanied by the formation of new alliances and the adjustment of already established ones. In the aftermath of the conflict in Ukraine we may observe two paths: polarization and division into opposing camps, or equidistance and refusal to be involved in conflicts and contradictions if they are not directly related to national interests. Israel in this sense found itself in a difficult situation. On the one hand, the task of maintaining a special relationship with the United States, given the existing difficulties in dialogue with the Democratic administration in Washington, is pushing Israel to take a stand of solidarity. On the other hand, security issues on the northern borders make it necessary to take into account the factor of the Russian presence in Syria. At the same time, the Israeli leadership is convinced that Iran's military-political activity is growing, and both Russia and the United States may be required to contain it. Can the nature of the allied relationship between Israel and the US be revised? What new situational alliances can be formed by Israel? What alliances could Israel offer to contain Iran? What new configurations of multilateral relations are emerging for Israel? What to expect from this?

***Israel and the Diaspora: definitely not "yesterday", it’s almost not “today”, but will it be “tomorrow”?***

One of the important directions of Israel's policy is to build relations with Jews living outside the "national home". This topic does not lose its relevance despite the fact that the diasporas themselves are becoming smaller, and more often they do not set as their ultimate goal the encouragement of resettlement to Israel. In this section, we propose to discuss the internal dynamics of the processes that characterize Jewish communities located in various countries, to identify their features and common problems (including the need to counteract anti-Semitism). In addition, it is impossible not to pay attention to the Israeli diaspora policy. At the Conference, it would be interesting to bring up such questions as: What are the theoretical approaches to the concept of "diaspora" and the relationship between the nation-state and diaspora? What is the relevance of their application? Where are the boundaries of mutual influence and mutual penetration in relations between Israel and the Jewish communities of the world today? What is the role of Israelis living outside of Israel in the development of the Jewish diasporas and in the formation of their connection with the State of Israel?

***Ideology today: impact on society and prospects for transformation***

When observing the internal political processes of recent years, one gets the feeling that ideology has finally faded into the background, giving way to the hostility of political coalitions created by "natural allies" or political forces united only by a short-term coincidence of interests. Election programs less and less touch on fundamental issues. Parties that identify themselves as belonging to the left and right camps do not always match the criteria of such. Even declaring adherence to the Zionist ideology, representatives of various groups of the Israeli political spectrum understand it differently. In this regard, it seems important not only to study the modern ideological foundations of the Israeli society functioning, but also to understand what and how they influence. It would also be interesting to understand what ideological constructs might arise and is there any chance that one or another ideology will again become the basis of positive changes in Israel.

***How is Israeli history written?***

It is customary to document the historical periods of any country. This happens both at the moment of the historical events themselves, and after a significant time interval, characterized by the change of several generations of historians. At the same time, the specialists make an attempt to objectively assess certain historical facts and present a subjective view of such facts from the height of the era in which they work. In this regard, it seems interesting after seven and a half decades of Israel's existence to look at how different authors wrote about certain events in the history of Israel. What were the priorities, did they change under the influence of ongoing political and other processes and phenomena in the life of Israeli society and in the world? It is no less interesting to discuss the positions from which the history of Israel should be presented today. Under this topic, we would like to see reports on historical politics and historiography, as well as reports on significant historical events.

***Youth session***

The format of the work of the youth session will be organized as follows. When the application is approved by the Organizing Committee, we will assign to each speaker a curator from among the staff of the Department for the Study of Israel and Jewish Communities of the RAS Institute of Oriental Studies, who will act as a reviewer. In addition, each participant of the session will also be a reviewer for another participant.