



Alex Vatanka

Alex Vatanka is a senior analyst at the Middle East Institute (MEI) in Washington D.C. He joined MEI in 2007.

He specializes in Middle Eastern political and security affairs with a particular focus on Iran. From 2006 to 2010, he was the Managing Editor of *Jane's Islamic Affairs Analyst*. From 2001 to 2006, he was an analyst at Jane's in London (UK) where he mainly covered the Middle East. Alex is also a Senior Fellow in Middle East Studies at the US Air Force Special Operations School (USAFSOS) at Hurlburt Field and teaches as an Adjunct Professor at DISAM at Wright-Patterson AFB.

He has lectured widely for both governmental and commercial audiences, including the US Department State, US military services, US Congressional staff, and Middle Eastern energy firms.

Beyond *Jane's* and the *Middle East Institute*, he has written for such outlets as *Christian Science Monitor*, *Foreign Affairs.com*, *Americas Quarterly*, *CNN.com*, the *Journal of International Security Affairs*, *BBC Persian Online*, *Jamestown Foundation*, *The World Today*, *PBS*, *Daily Beast*, the *Jerusalem Post* and the *Council of Foreign Relations*.

Some of his most recent publications have included "*Tangle in the Caucasus: Iran and Israel fight for influence in Azerbaijan*"; "*The Guardian of Pakistan's Shia*"; "*The Artesh: Iran's marginalized regular military*," and "*The odd couple: Iran and Qatar and Arab Revolutions*."

Born in Tehran, he holds a BA in Political Science (Sheffield University, UK), and an MA in International Relations (Essex University, UK), and is fluent in Farsi and Danish. He is currently working on a book on Iranian-Pakistani relations and its impact on US national security.