

## **A former adviser to the US Congress opened the scientific conference at John Naisbitt University**

### **Yossef Bodansky: Islamism occurred while no one was watching**

- The solution of the Syrian crisis requires a deeper involvement of the Western world. However, this engagement must not be exhausted in the killing of a few bad guys, but we need to understand the core of the problem - said Yossef Bodansky, former chief adviser to the Department on terrorism and unconventional warfare in the US Congress, participating at the scientific conference organized by Belgrade John Naisbitt University.

Bodansky pointed out, opening the conference entitled "National and International Security: Contemporary Global Challenges," that the problem of terrorism could be seen only if you made a step backwards.

- During the Cold War, we were all focused on the relation of the West to the East, but no one paid any attention to the rest of the world. At the same time, the process of decolonization was under way. Nobody asked what all those people from former colonies wanted- said Bodansky.

According to him, an aversion to the concept of modern Western state has developed in the former colonies, which erupted after the end of the Cold War. He adds that Islam is at the forefront of this movement, which opposes the Western model of society.

A defining moment for Islam was the first Gulf War in 1991. Americans probably did not realize what they were doing, and they have failed to define its role in the post-Cold War era so far. At that time, aided by technology, resentment towards the West crystallized in the Islamic world - said Bodansky, pointing out that this resentment is not necessarily manifested in the form of terrorist attacks.

He identified two things that make the current situation "explosive". First, it is extinction of the state, and the development of technology.

Today's Islamic leaders do not identify themselves with the countries they come from, which makes those movements seem attractive to people from other countries. In addition, Western technology, primarily mobile phones have enabled the Islamists to communicate more easily with each other - said Bodansky