



Dr. Mahir J. Ibrahimov (Dr. I.) Biography

Dr. Mahir J. Ibrahimov (also known as Dr. I.) is the Director of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) Cultural and Area Studies Office (CASO), under the U.S. Army Combined Arms Command, within the U.S. Department of Defense (historically known as the Department of War).

Mahir is an accomplished author and editor of eight books and numerous other publications. His latest book, *America and The World: Witnessing the End of the Last Empires in the 20th and 21st Centuries*, was published by the world's oldest global publishing house, Walter De Gruyter, based in Berlin, Germany.

Dr. I is also the general editor of the third CASO volume in the forthcoming anthology *Strategic Competition in the Indo-Pacific Region: "Pacing Threat" and "Great Power Competition," or "Competition of Alliances?"* is being published by the U.S. Government Press and endorsed by a senior U.S. Army leader in support of U.S. and allied national security objectives.

Mahir has earned a notable reputation for his deep expertise in international relations across Eurasia, the Middle East, and Europe. He has been featured in BBC World News, the Los Angeles Times, other major global media outlets, the movie industry, and U.S. Department of Defense documentaries, interviews, and newsreels.

As the first U.S. Army Culture and Foreign Language Advisor, he established a successful Culture and Foreign Language Program that was later recognized as an Army-wide model. He was subsequently promoted to the position of Senior Culture and Foreign Language Advisor. In that role—and later as Director of CASO—he continued to develop and expand the program, extending its outreach across the Army and beyond through a wide range of educational initiatives, including publishing, guest speakers, direct support to CGSC classes, live panels, video podcasts, international cooperation, and research.

Mahir is known for his unique background. Dr. I. served as a deputy platoon commander in the Soviet Army (Baltic Military District) and witnessed the breakup of the Soviet Union. He then became a Senior Middle East Expert in Moscow, USSR. After the dissolution of the USSR, Mahir helped open the first embassy of independent Azerbaijan and later served as a senior diplomat in Washington, D.C. He subsequently became the vice president of the newly established American University in Azerbaijan, followed by his work at the Foreign Service Institute of the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

While providing vital assistance to U.S. forces in the Middle East as a front-line, multilingual senior cultural adviser, Dr. Ibrahimov was recognized as a linguistic "genius" during the early years of the Iraq War and throughout U.S. and coalition counterinsurgency operations in the region. Upon his return, Dr. I. was invited by Senator James Inhofe—then a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and later its Chairman—for an expression of appreciation for his service in Iraq. Senator Inhofe signed a joint photo with the inscription: "...you are a great American, Mahir..."

Dr. Ibrahimov went on to serve as the first senior U.S. Army Culture and Foreign Language Advisor. **He traveled to Ukraine as part of the U.S. Army Chief of Staff's study** and provided follow-on recommendations in support of U.S. national security.

Drawing on his extensive firsthand knowledge and regional and global expertise, **Mahir has been regularly invited in recent years to support U.S. European NATO partners** in their regional policy development.

His extensive civilian and military education includes advanced training through multiple U.S. Department of Defense programs, as well as academic and professional studies in both the United States and the former Soviet Union: **Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University**, Washington, DC, and the **Joint Program of the Institute of World Politics and Boston University**, also in Washington, DC; **Academy of Social Sciences** in Moscow, USSR, and **Peoples' Friendship University** in Moscow, USSR. In addition, he received military education at a **Soviet military school in Volgograd oblast (formerly Stalingrad), USSR.**

He is fluent in five languages and is deeply versed in a wide range of cultures, reflecting the breadth of his global experience and training.