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IFIMES looks at things differently. Its contributors and their works are selected for the breadth of their vision as well as their intimate knowledge of a specific country. IFIMES contributors work to enlighten developments across regions – the Middle East and Southeast Europe – as well as between countries. To those who believe that Iraq represents unique challenges or that Bosnia-Herzegovina is a one-off exception to global developments, IFIMES responds that informed observers must identify both the shared and unique characteristics of each situation to gain a full understanding of viable policy options. The reader will find in the following pages the best thinking of the most informed and creative specialists on these areas, along with an unfailing resolve to analyze critically and comparatively the most pressing issues of our time. In the following pages, these contributors inform, analyze, and provoke. Whenever possible and appropriate, they prescribe policy options. The essays contribute knowledge, insight, and original ideas of value both to general readers and to specialists in the region.

Dr. Robert J. Donia

President of the Council of the International Institute
for Middle East and Balkan Studies (IFIMES) and
Associate Professor at the University of Michigan

ABOUT THE IFIMES INSTITUTE

IFIMES – International Institute for Middle-East and Balkan studies, based in Ljubljana - Slovenia, gathers and selects various information and sources on key conflict areas in the world. Based on the selected information, the Institute analyses mutual relations among parties with an aim to promote the importance of global conflict resolution of the existing conflicts and the role of preventive actions against new global disputes.

Idea to establish IFIMES Institute is a reflection of our common reality and the needs of the world to reach for common solutions – now more than ever in the past. Common interests and bonds among different policies, nations, religions, world regions and diverse interest parties in the unipolar world are essential. Constant search for differences and rejections is like searching for a needle in a pack of hay, while insisting on cooperation and respect for diversity provides a chance to create a better world.

The area of research and work of IFIMES Institute is the Middle East (Gulf states) and the Balkans (South-Eastern Europe), where relations among different entities are based on religious, ethnic, national and racial grounds. Associates of the Institute are respected experts, scientists, managers, journalists and researchers, who are introducing younger colleagues from all over the world to work, with a purpose of additional education, promotion of knowledge and scientific achievements with an emphasis on the political and economic connections within the region, among the regions and on the global level.

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