

which is different our common human essence, our wishes and goals, our common interests, coexistence and cohabitation.

World peace must be built on sound foundations with efforts and acts which foster understanding and coexistence not only in multinational but also in predominantly single-national regions and cities. The tasks of regional and local authorities as well as of the civil society, educational, scientific and cultural establishments are just as important as the work of statesmen and major international institutions.

Joint and integrated action at all levels gives us courage that we will eventually manage to step out of this vicious circle in which violence is answered by violence.

We are proud that Ljubljana has been the hospitable home and seat of the International Institute for Middle-East and Balkan Studies (IFIMES) – the institution which contributes with its research, analytic and information activities to better understanding of events in the most critical regions of the south-east Europe, the Middle-East and the Persian Gulf.

With profound researches of political, economic and military issues, religious and interethnic relations and critical analyses of democratisation processes in those and other regions, IFIMES presents the reasons and roots of disagreements and conflicts.

Knowledge and deeper understanding as well as the possibilities and guidelines for resolving conflicts enable us to efficiently take part at home and in the world in joint efforts for peace and democratisation.

The activities of institutions such as IFIMES contribute to the awareness of the importance of human rights, to the implementation of values of equality, justness and understanding, to tolerance in resolving conflicts and to active co-operation of individuals and the community in striving for a safe and friendly world for all of us.

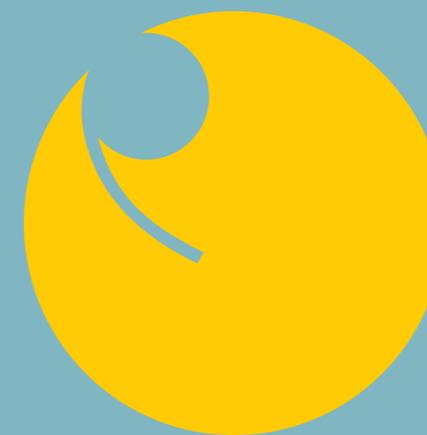
We wish you a lot of success in your future work.

Mayoress of Ljubljana
Danica Simšič



2003

IFIMES 2003



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International Institute for Middle East and Balkan Studies

2003



// *Mayoress Preface to the 2003
Miscellany of IFIMES (International
Institute for Middle-East and Balkan
Studies); February 2004 //*

The world of the 21 century is becoming more and more global, so to say interwoven. On the other hand, our common goal to live in peace, prosperity and wealth is more and more distant and unattainable. Despite the strengthened efforts of individuals, nations, states and the international community, it is still shaken by local and regional conflicts. While the international community manages to soothe one burning point, another breaks out.

The greatest threats are those regions where, for several decades, the nations, their political representatives and mediators of international organisations have not been able to find the common language, possibilities and basis to live together in peace. Those regions generate new conflicts in the wider area and, since the terrorist forces changed their tactics, practically throughout the world.

In such world we are all obliged to take action for peace. No one can pretend it does not concern him/her. We should be aware that skilled diplomats, security treaties and trained peacekeeping missions can not alone bring peace to our – one and only – planet.

Violence is not only the language of weapons, it is the result of what we are taught from experience. Violence is always triggered by words which denote rejection, incite intolerance, conceal fear from something different ... Such language must be confronted by open and responsible words which reveal in that

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Publisher: IFIMES - International Institute for Middle
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P. O.BOX 2795, SI-1001 Ljubljana, Slovenia, EU
tel.: ++386 1 430 15 33,
fax: ++386 1 430 15 34
e-mail: ifimes@ifimes.org
www.ifimes.org

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INFORMATIONS ABOUT THE 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.

The IFIMES Institute is through organizing seminars, symposiums, conferences, round tables, (with participants from various interest groups: scientists, politicians, managers, representatives of religious institutions, journalists, artists and others), performing analyses, studies and projects, as well as through its own publications presenting the results of its work and achievements, also targeting leading international media.

IFIMES will in the future cooperate with relevant institutions from the USA, EU, Gulf states and countries from South-Eastern Europe on projects, studies and analyses prepared individually or based on specific demands from a known party. The activities of IFIMES are especially directed towards the areas of international (foreign) politics and economy, international relations, counselling the state institutions, companies and individuals and more.

IFIMES is searching for and recommending political solutions to the governments of the world, especially and foremost for the regions of the Balkans and the Middle East.

FOUNDERS OF ICTAC - INTERNATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The International Counter-Terrorism Academic Community (ICTAC), was established at ICT's third international conference in September 2003. The ICTAC's members include leading counter-terrorism researchers and research institutes from countries around the globe. Among ICTAC's goals: developing and expanding academic cooperation in counter-terrorism; conducting research that will lead to more efficient decision-making in counter-terrorism; promoting new policies and initiatives to fight terrorism:

1. International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), Israel
2. International Institute for Middle East and Balkan Studies (IFIMES), Slovenia
3. Unconventional Concepts, Inc., USA
4. Georgia International Law Enforcement, Exchange-Dept of Criminal Justice, Georgia State University, USA
5. Center for Tactical Counter-Terrorism for the NYPD
6. Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), Singapore
7. International Foundation Experimental Creativity Center, Russia
8. Center for High Studies on Counter-Terrorism and Political Violence (Ce.A.S.), Italy
9. Oklahoma Regional Community Policing Institute, USA
10. National Center for Emergency Preparedness at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, USA
11. Environmental Planning Specialists, Inc-and-Georgia State University, USA
12. Counter-Terrorism Research Center of Georgia, Georgia
13. Center of Security & Terrorism Research, Institute of Political Studies, SCG
14. Center for Globalization Studies, SCG