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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 unflinching 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



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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.

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The IFIMES Institute regularly issues its Miscellany for the previous year in the English language and distributes it mainly abroad (foreign diplomatic missions, presidents of states and prime ministers, governments, EU, USA, international organizations, media, and companies).

IFIMES Institute cooperates 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 Institute 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.

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Ljubljana, December, 2005