

## **The DIME Powers of the UAE as Potential Effective Tools for Regional Stability**

***By Riad Kahwaji, Dubai-based security analyst and doctoral student in Global Security, AMU***

Not many countries, especially in the volatile Middle East region, have been able to utilize their powers of diplomacy, information, military and economics (DIME) effectively to project their foreign policy and enhance their standing globally. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) appears to be one of those successful few. Housing hundreds of international news outlets, and actively trying to broker resolutions to longstanding disputes – and succeeding in some cases – and taking the bold steps in normalizing relations with Israel, the oil-rich Sheikdom seems to be confident enough to employ its soft power to further its foreign policy and to establish itself as an important player on the global theater. Referred to as “little Sparta” by former Defense Secretary James Mattis, the UAE also deployed its advanced military on various occasions within international alliances combating terrorism and protecting its national interests.

The UAE appears now to be employing its DIME power to de-escalate the mounting tension between Iran and Israel, and to also help kick-start the stalled peace Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. The study argues that the UAE’s effective utilization of its soft powers could facilitate international efforts to reach a deal with Tehran over its controversial nuclear program, and to revive the Middle East peace process, especially on the Israeli-Palestinian track.

The presentation highlights the DIME capabilities of the UAE, and the successful attempts in the past years to broker peace settlements and to combat terrorism. It addresses the way it is handling its relations with Iran while at the same time is proceeding with the normalization of ties with Israel. It addresses the question of how UAE perceives itself, and whether it could maneuver successfully to prevent a regional military conflict or at least to escape? It also tackles the question of what potential role the UAE could play in advancing Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli relations?

The presentation could be stand-alone or part of a panel on means and mechanisms to de-escalate tension and enhance stability in the Middle East region.