

Anti-Terrorism Norm Building Strategy of European Union and United States of America in West Asia

By

Ramsin BEIT JAM, Ph.D.

Introduction By

Mehdi ZAKERIAN, Ph.D.



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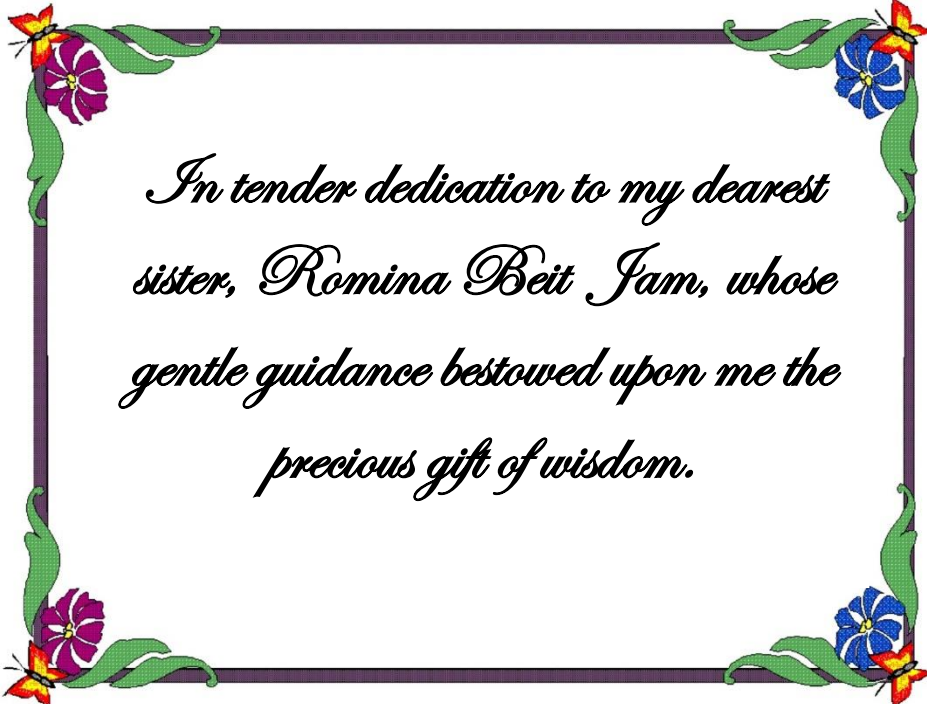
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*In tender dedication to my dearest
sister, Romina Beit Jam, whose
gentle guidance bestowed upon me the
precious gift of wisdom.*

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Introduction



The scarcity of time and incentive for reading is evident. The global political landscape is fraught with disorder, thereby diminishing the impetus to engage with literature. Peace and the sanctity of human rights face jeopardy and infringement across the expanse of the world. This progression serves to dampen the enthusiasm of advocates for human rights and proponents of peace and security. Nevertheless, Dr. Ramsin BEIT JAM's book emerges as a novel symphony dedicated to the pursuit of peace and security. Through a meticulous analysis of the European Union's Norm-Building strategy, he discerns the manner in which this strategy engenders alignment with the United States of America. This symphony is a composition that encompasses the themes of counter-terrorism, advocacy for human rights, the institutionalization of the International Criminal Court, and various other norms. Europe assumes the mantle of the conductor leading this orchestra, with America positioned as a significant instrumentalist, jointly orchestrating the harmonious symphony they perform together. The book's central inquiry resides within the hypothesis positing that the impetus driving America and Europe's involvement in the Middle East is underpinned by the prevalence of a normative cultural strategy. This involvement is further rooted in the pursuit of strategic stability that transcends the contours of multilateral de-escalation. The author raises a fundamental question: Would it even be possible to use multilateral initiatives to subject the United States to international norms? The author of the book not only raises this question but also advances an innovative notion. Through this original perspective, the author underscores that the mastery of norm-building resides within Europe, and this mastery exercises an influence that induces even a power-oriented America to yield to

and regulate the domain of multilateralism.

The book's allure is heightened through Dr. BEIT JAM's adept use of the constructivist theory. The interplay between structure and agency in European Union norms evokes a metaphorical dance that compels the United States to recalibrate its trajectory. This recalibration results in the presentation of poised and harmonious actions within the same realm. The aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks precipitated America's engagement in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts from 2002 to 2003, encompassing regime changes. This catalyzed a fresh surge of extremism within the region, a trend that endures to the present day, aligning with the parameters of this theoretical framework. Europe's dynamism remains ceaseless. Its influence is most acutely felt through its adept manipulation of the levers of norm-building. Europe's concerted endeavors are firmly directed toward the realization and execution of a norm-building-centered strategy, one designed to combat terrorism not solely within the confines of Europe but also spanning the Middle East. All these elements synergized, allowing me to delve into the book and derive enjoyment from its contents. However, of greater significance is the fact that the book not only exhibits a robust scientific framework but also challenges prevailing perspectives. The book ventures to shatter the confines of realism and unveils a contrarian viewpoint. The book contests the commonly held belief that the European Union, particularly its influential member states, consistently aligns itself with the US global policies. Drawing from an ardent dedication to scientific inquiry, it posits that discernible disparities in norms and values exist between the US and EU policy paradigms, particularly in their counter-terrorism approaches. The author asserts that, in this specific context, the United States is a follower of Europe!

Consequently, if not so, the joint US-EU counter-terrorism strategy in the Middle East risks exacerbating instability and fostering the propagation of terrorism and extremism. In brief,

imbalanced and unilateral actions under the guise of direct warfare are poised to yield repercussions, including the emergence of feeble and precarious governmental systems, engendering a cascade of instability on both regional and, consequently, global scales. The emergence and diffusion of terrorist groups across West Asia and North Africa thus cease to be enigmatic occurrences. The researcher simplifies this complex dynamic, casting a potent spotlight upon the global order through the lens of norm-building. A notable feature of the book is the wealth of its sourced materials and research. The author's assiduous reading habits and deliberate writing approach manifest in the text, yielding a commendable depth of academic discourse. The book's expansive literary corpus indeed stands as a testament to its academic rigor. It holds substantial value. It is my hope that a platform and incentive for discourse would emerge between the author and those writers who extol the influence of both America and China. Such a discourse could aptly elucidate the grounding influence of norm-building on China, its encroachment on Russia, its subjugation of America, and its complex coalescence of the Middle East's stark norms with Europe's more nuanced norms—a juxtaposition that carries within it a paradoxical fusion of rigid and supple.

Mehdi ZAKERIAN
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