



Twenty Years of Substantive Impacts on Security and Defense Discourse

*Sean S. Costigan*¹ and *Todor Tagarev*²

¹ *George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies*,
<https://www.marshallcenter.org/>

² *Institute of Information and Communication Technologies*,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria, <http://www.iict.bas.bg/EN>

Abstract: Over the past twenty years, *Connections* has been instrumental in informing and shaping security and defense policy debates within the Partnership for Peace community and beyond. This issue includes updated versions of some of the articles that have had the highest academic and policy-making impact.

Keywords: Partnership for Peace, security policy, defense, international security.

In this special edition of *Connections: The Quarterly Journal*, we proudly present a collection of our most popular and widely read articles of the last two decades, each a testament to the journal's enduring commitment to excellence in the field of security studies. This compilation not only reflects the evolving landscape of global security but also highlights the critical insights and innovative perspectives that our authors bring to the forefront of academic and policy discussions.

Over the years, *Connections* has established itself as a cornerstone for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers seeking to deepen their understanding of complex security challenges. The articles chosen for this issue have resonated with a diverse audience, sparking debates, informing strategies, and influencing the direction of security studies as a discipline. They cover a broad spectrum of topics, including emerging threats in cybersecurity, the intricacies of international relations and conflicts, the impact of technological advancements on national defense strategies, and the pressing need for sustainable security strategies against a wide array of risks.

The selection process for this issue was guided by readership data and feedback from community and editorial board, ensuring that the featured articles not only represent the pinnacle of academic achievement but also address the most pressing issues facing the international community today. Each piece was chosen for its relevance, rigor, and contribution to the field, embodying our mission to foster a deeper understanding of security issues and encourage a dialogue that transcends borders.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our authors, whose expertise and dedication have enriched the pages of *Connections* and advanced the field of security studies and the work of the Partnership for Peace Consortium. Their work continues to inspire and challenge us, pushing the boundaries of what is known and expanding the horizons of what is possible.

To our readers, we offer this issue as a reflection of your interests and concerns. Your engagement and feedback have been instrumental in shaping the journal's direction and ensuring its relevance in a rapidly changing world. We hope that this collection of articles not only serves as a valuable resource but also sparks further reflection, discussion, and research in the pursuit of global security and peace.

As we look to the future, *Connections: The Quarterly Journal* remains committed to providing a platform for rigorous scholarship and critical discourse. We are excited about the opportunities to explore new perspectives, confront emerging challenges, and contribute to the development of effective and sustainable security solutions.

Thank you for joining us on this journey, and we invite you to delve into the pages that follow, where the most pressing security issues of our time are examined, analyzed, and discussed. Let us continue to connect, learn, and work together towards a more secure and peaceful world.

Disclaimer

The views expressed are solely those of the authors and do not represent official views of the PFP Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes, participating organizations, or the Consortium's editors.

About the Authors

Sean S. Costigan is a Professor at George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies and Senior Advisor to the Emerging Security Challenges working group of the Partnership for Peace Consortium.

E-mail: sean.costigan@marshallcenter.org

Todor Tagarev is an experienced security and defense policymaker with a background in cybernetics and control theory and applications. He is a Professor at the Institute of Information and Communication Technologies of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and leads its Centre for Security and Defence Management. Prof. Tagarev has been a member of the Editorial Board of *Connections: The Quarterly Journal* since 2004. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4424-0201>

Acknowledgment

Connections: The Quarterly Journal, Vol. 22, 2023, is supported by the United States government.