



The Shifting Contours of Security: Environment, Technology, and Human Mobility

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Abstract: This issue of *Connections* presents a compelling set of studies addressing the multifaceted nature of global and regional security. It encompasses a wide range of contemporary challenges, from the enduring complexities of border politics and sovereignty to the emerging frontiers of environmental security, technological disruption, existential scenarios for non-anthropogenic risks, and the impacts of climate change on international security and stability.

Keywords: environmental security, water security, nuclear energy, emerging technologies, disruption, human security, mobility.

It is a distinct pleasure to introduce this issue, *The Shifting Contours of Security: Environment, Technology, and Human Mobility*, which brings together a compelling collection of analyses addressing the multifaceted nature of global and regional security. The articles in this volume traverse a wide spectrum of contemporary challenges, from the enduring complexities of border politics and sovereignty to the emerging frontiers of environmental security, technological disruption, and the observable impacts of climate and physical contexts on international stability.

The breadth of topics covered underscores the interconnectedness of today's security challenges and the necessity for adaptable, forward-thinking solutions. Each article, in its unique way, contributes to the core mission of *Connections*, the Partnership for Peace Consortium (PfPC), and the roughly 800 affiliated defense academies and security studies institutes the Consortium connects across the world.

The contributors to this special issue represent a diverse array of institutions and global perspectives. They offer insightful examinations of how state and

nonstate actors are grappling with new realities presented by place- and space-centered national identities, climate-related policy and practice, emerging technologies, and the ever-evolving battlespace.

This collection leads with a focus on certain aspects of the human dimension of security, specifically migration and borders. “The EU’s Approach to Irregular Migration in the Contemporary Fragile Context: An Effective Model?” by Atanas Dimitrov and Tsvetomira Penkova analyzes the effects of a decade of European Union policies concerning conflict-related migration. Theories of exclusion and securitization arise in “Beyond Borders: Conflict Mediation and Governance in Central Asia’s Fergana Valley,” in which Young-Jin Ahn and Zuhridin Juraev explore the demarcation of borders in Central Asia.

From migration and border challenges, this issue of *Connections* moves to the subject of climate and its effect on national security and global alliances. “Imperatives of Nuclear Energy in India’s Clean Energy Transition” by Sitakanta Mishra and Pranav Bhaskar considers India’s strategic imperatives in transitioning toward clean energy amidst climate obligations. The potential role of security alliances in combating novel threats such as environmental crime is the focus of “NATO and Environmental Crime: A New Frontier of Collective Security” by Ayfer Genç Yılmaz.

The authors in the issue also compel us to consider disaster preparedness and response, integrating the impacts of climate change and new technologies. “Back to Classics: Developing an Existential Security Scenario Framework for Global Non-Anthropogenic Catastrophes” by Cristian E. Guerrero-Castro and Roger C. Baars proposes a novel approach to the development of security policy frameworks for non-manmade planetary disasters such as outer-space objects striking Earth, high-impact volcano eruptions, and tsunamis. Ryan Atkinson applies theory to practice, arguing for the need for innovation in disaster response exercises in “Scenario-Based Simulations for Climate Security: Enhancing Rapid Response to Converging Crises.”

Our summer 2024 collection concludes with the challenges posed by evolving tactics of modern conflict, which induce harm to civilian populations by using them to achieve operational and strategic objectives. “Weaponizing Civilians: Disrupting Strategic Mobility and Logistics” by Dominika Kosárová, Josef Melichar, and Peter Dobias addresses these concerns.

The realization of this issue would not have been possible without the diligent efforts of our authors, the insightful contributions of our peer reviewers, and the dedicated work of the *Connections* editorial team. I extend my sincere gratitude to all who have played a part in bringing these important discussions to our readership. As you engage with the articles in this issue, I trust you will find the analyses both thought-provoking and valuable. We hope these contributions will not only deepen your understanding of the complex security environment but also inspire further academic inquiry and collaborative policy toward a more secure future for all.

Thank you for your continued readership and engagement with *Connections*.

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