



## Welcoming Address

# Welcome to the Latest Issue of *Connections: The Quarterly Journal*!

This edition marks a new way forward for the *Connections* journal. The Partnership for Peace Consortium (PfPC) Secretariat and the College of International Security Studies (CISS)—both part of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies—will now be collaborating to curate four issues of *Connections* per year, bringing a broader range of perspectives and expertise to our global readership.

This issue, titled “Strategic Competition in a Globalized World,” holds particular significance as it is the first of its kind guest-edited by the CISS leadership. This edition, led by Col. Dr. Frank Hagemann, Deputy Dean of Research at CISS, presents twelve articles that explore various aspects of strategic competition and its impact on international security. The contributions come from a diverse group of authors, including faculty, partner institutions, and our worldwide alumni network members. This diversity reflects the broad academic community the Marshall Center brings together, serving as a platform for meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange.

Central to the Marshall Center’s mission is our commitment to educate, engage, and empower international security professionals by advancing intellectual interoperability. At its core, this concept is about enabling nations and organizations to work together more effectively through shared understanding, mutual trust, and informed discussions. Academic thought and collaborative research—such as the *Connections* journal—play a key role in this process, helping to bridge gaps across cultures and regions. This issue reflects that goal, bringing together academic perspectives from partner countries such as Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, as well as Burkina Faso, Ghana, and India. These contributions offer valuable views about the challenges and opportunities different regions face in an increasingly competitive and interconnected world.

This edition would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of several key individuals. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Laura Thurston Goodroe, Chief of Academic Publications, for her exceptional management of the editorial process. I also wish to recognize Major Martin

Schuster, PfPC Program Manager, for his support in coordinating this effort. Their contributions were essential in bringing this issue to our readers.

As you read through the articles in this edition, I hope the analyses and perspectives help provide a deeper understanding of the strategic challenges we face today and encourage you to ponder how we can collectively find sustainable solutions for the future.

Thank you for your continued engagement with *Connections* and for being part of the broader Marshall Center community.

Let's stay *connected*!

Sincerely,

**Barre R. Seguin**

Director, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies