

Editor's Note

The current issue of the Caucasus Strategic Perspectives (CSP) journal entitled “*Unveiling the Complexities: Exploring the Geopolitical Dynamics of the Middle East and South Caucasus*” is dedicated to the different cooperation opportunities and confrontational issues in and between South Caucasus and the Middle East regions.

The CSP's new issue includes 5 articles. The CSP's current authors analyzed the growing importance of the Middle Corridor transport route, the role of Azerbaijan and Georgia in this route, the evolving geopolitical dynamics of and between the South Caucasus and the Middle East regions and opportunities for interconnectivity, the rationale behind the strengthened cooperation between Azerbaijan and Israel and its regional implications, the emergence of new players in the South Caucasus region and the subsequent foreign policy moves of the regions' states, and the last but not least, Armenia's environmental and landmine terror in the formerly-occupied territories of Azerbaijan, etc.

The new issue's **Highlight** is the comprehensive article of Giorgi Mukhigulishvili titled “*The Growing Importance of the Middle Corridor as an Energy Transport Route, and Opportunities for Azerbaijan and Georgia*”. This article examines the Middle Corridor's growing relevance as an energy transportation route and its potential to offer new opportunities for the European Union (EU), Central Asian countries, as well as for Azerbaijan and Georgia. In particular, this article describes the Middle Corridor, as an alternative to conventional routes through Russia or the Middle East, which presents a solution to geopolitical vulnerabilities.

The new issue's **Articles Section** starts with **Ali Bakır's** article of "*Navigating Geopolitical Complexity: Iran, Türkiye, and the Quest for Middle East–South Caucasus Interconnectedness*" explores the multifaceted geopolitical dynamics underpinning the Middle East and South Caucasus regions and emphasizes the profound historical interconnectedness between them and highlights the importance of reviving and promoting the interconnectedness and inter-cooperation between the two regions, particularly in an era of changing geopolitical landscapes.

Nina Miholjic Ivkovic's article of "*Azerbaijan–Israel Strengthened Partnership and its Implications for Regional Geopolitics*" explores the reasons behind the strengthened cooperation between Azerbaijan and Israel, reasons that range from strategic and political to energy and economic factors and further examines the impact of such a partnership on the geopolitical tendencies in the Middle East.

Vasif Huseynov's article of "*Geopolitics of the South Caucasus in Flux: Towards a New Security Order*" argues that the external actors discern new opportunities to step into the resulting power vacuum in the geographically strategic South Caucasus region and, meanwhile, the three countries of the region – Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia – are strategizing to take the most advantage from the situation, boost their independence, and safeguard their national interests.

Valentina Chabert's article of "*Contractualization of Environmental Protection: Prospects for Post-conflict Recovery of the Formerly Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan*" which provides an overview of the wrongful acts committed by Armenia that have caused severe harm to the natural environment of Azerbaijan, and covers a period from the First and the Second Karabakh wars up to the present. The article further outlines

the corporate accountability framework in international law for preventing private companies' illicit environmental conduct.

Finally, on behalf of the CSP team, we hope this issue provides food for thought and contributes to and enriches the discussion on subject-matter issue.

Sincerely

Farid Shafiyev

Editor-in-Chief of CSP Journal