

Editor's Note

The current issue of the Caucasus Strategic Perspectives (CSP) journal entitled “*Pax Caucasia: Prospects of Peace and Cooperation in South Caucasus*” is dedicated to the possible cooperation opportunities in the aftermath of latest 44-days war between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the fall of 2020 with focus on different views from various countries. The CSP’s new issue includes 5 articles, 2 commentaries and 1 book review. In the framework of post-war cooperation situation, the CSP’s current authors analysed the economic difficulties of Armenia, Azerbaijan’s enhancing role in the region and existing geopolitical confrontations, performance of peacekeeping activities, as well as economic cooperation opportunities emerged in the post-war period.

The new issue’s *Articles Section* starts with **Javid Valiyev**’s article of “*Turkey’s South Caucasus Policy after the 44-Day War*” which analyses in detail the role of Turkey, which supported Azerbaijan politically and morally in the war, in the South Caucasus. This article concludes that, after this war, a new geopolitical situation has emerged in the South Caucasus region.

Orkhan Baghirov’s article of “*Armenian Economy in Post-War Period: Economic Losses and New Development Opportunities*” examines the scale of the economic damage that the war inflicted on Armenia by describing the country’s military losses and loss of access to the energy and agricultural resources of the [formerly occupied] Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

Vinícius Silva Santana’s article of “*Azerbaijan as a Potential Regional Leader in the South Caucasus*” argued that Azerbaijan has the means to promote a regional order in the Caucasus, but such a project will largely depend on the policies that Azerbaijan will foster regionally in the short term and how they will be arranged with Armenia, Georgia, and the regional powers neighbouring the South Caucasus.

Taras Kuzio’s article of “*Russia-GUAM-US Triangle of Competition over Eurasia and Geopolitical Pluralism*” discussed the triangle of competition between Russia and the USA over three members of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, GUAM: Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Ukraine.

Arzu Abbasova’s article of “*Assessing the Performance of Russia’s Peacekeeping Forces in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan*” argues that the mandate performance of the Russian peacekeepers in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan is unsuccessful owing to the numerous technical breaches and unilateral stretching of the agreement terms, and also highlights the

limited steps taken by the peacekeepers to achieve the normalization process between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The new issue's **Commentaries Section** commences with **Eugene Chausovsky's** commentary of "*Azerbaijan: Manoeuvring the Geopolitics of Connectivity*" argues that for Azerbaijan to advance its goals, careful geopolitical manoeuvring is required that focuses on the functional and mutually beneficial gains of building regional connectivity and mitigating the propensity towards division and zero-sum conflict in the Caucasus.

The joint commentary of **Joseph Hammond and Aynur Bashirova** titled "*South Caucasus: Beyond A History of War toward Reconciliation and Economic Integration?*" emphasizes that despite the end of war, there remain many other issues to be resolved before we can talk about cooperation; the most paramount being addressing Armenia's irredentist claims and the preparedness of both societies for mutual acceptance of one another.

The new issue's **Book Review Series** includes comprehensive review of the book titled "*Russia's Interventions in Ethnic Conflicts: The Case of Armenia and Azerbaijan*" (authored by James J. Coyle) by Naghi Ahmadov.

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