

Editors' Foreword

When Franklin D Roosevelt delivered his famous “Four Freedoms” address in January 1941—calling for freedom of speech and worship, and freedom from want and fear—he could have had no idea that, sixty years later, effective border security might be both the guarantor of those freedoms and their greatest challenge. Terrorism, security-sector reform, counter-insurgency, demographics, ethnicity, commerce, migration and free movement of labor, environmental and energy management, disease, human trafficking and transnational crime: these are just some of the subjects that intersect with border security. How to manage them all is one of the most pervasive challenges of good government.

This issue of *Connections* is largely devoted to the subject of border security. As with many of the new agenda items in the field of security studies, border security is a subject that overlaps with numerous others. As such, this poses a problem not just for politicians and governments, but for editors and for teaching and research institutes as well, in that it is as hard to draw a neat line around the subject and its related areas of expertise. Intellectually, it is as interdisciplinary as it is international and multi-agency in terms of policy and practical application. It is also a relatively new area of academic and policy inquiry, and it will be interesting to see how its exponents determine the shape of the sub-discipline going forward. With the new challenges facing the nation-state, have the normal functions of frontiers altered?

To address some of these issues, we have chosen a selection of articles that focus on border security as a governmental and technical problem. Two studies from either side of the Atlantic lay out the progress that has been made to date: one from the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces shows the breadth and development in this area; the other, from the Congressional Research Service, is a report reflecting current U.S. homeland security efforts. Janice L. Kephart, from the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, D.C., has recommendations for U.S. policymakers based on individual case studies. Two studies then take specific matters as their focus: Claes Levinsson's piece details the challenge of overcoming the legacy of the three Baltic States' Russian border difficulties, and Paul Holtom's examines the pervasive problem of the cross-border movement of small arms and light weapons.

Technology may offer solutions to some of the pressing problems in securing national borders, particularly those in which time is of the utmost importance—e.g., maintaining security and the speed of commerce. In his December 2000 Foreign Affairs article “Beyond Border Control” Stephen Flynn, a dedicated analyst of border security and Senior Fellow for National Security at the Council on Foreign Relations, stated, “Fortifying the frontiers is no solution—it would slow down trade and globalization. International companies and government regulators need to invest in new technologies to help border control keep pace with booming commerce.” In order to promote understanding of some of the technical strategies that are being contemplated, we have included two reports exploring the potential that exists to use technological solutions to improve border management. The first of these, by the European Commission

Joint Research Centre SERAC Unit, examines the status of technical and industrial trends in the context of legislative and societal changes, while the second considers the role of unmanned aerial vehicles in border control.

It is also clear, however, that the context for the global management of migration and the movement of individuals has changed. As they come into power, do younger generations share the ethos that created most of the national and international institutions that presume to deliver security? Many in these generations have opted to make individual choices based on market decisions. Small wonder that among these choices is the one to move at will, often across borders, for financial advantage (but on occasion for far less respectable motives), regardless of whether the authority structures involved in this push-and-pull view this level of mobility as necessary, desirable, or legal.

The final article is an essay from a Partnership for Peace country, Ireland, which reminds us that borders are not just about facilitating, selecting, or preventing the movement of people, goods, and services, legal or otherwise. Generational and professional boundaries also exist, and need to be studied in the light of the implications for change in our militaries and societies. Deference to authority appears to be on the decline, and governments have seen their reservoirs of public trust diminish from the high levels that prevailed immediately after 9/11. Was that spike in trust in government evanescent, or did it portend something larger? How does the study of border security—as a concern of governments everywhere—address the issue of trust? As a crucial element of the larger equation of delivering good and accountable governance while enabling the movement of goods and services, border security will remain one of the most important concerns of our age.

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