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CORRUPTION

The Belt and Road Initiative Is a Corruption Bonanza
Will Doig – Foreign Policy: 15 January 2019

China’s Belt and Road Initiative is propping up dictators and corrupt leaders through bribes and overinflated infrastructure building projects.

https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/01/15/the-belt-and-road-initiative-is-a-corruption-bonanza/

Strategies for winning the fight against corruption
Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala – Brookings: 15 January 2019

To better fight corruption, it must be better understood. Lack of transparency, the weakness of government processes and institutions, and the pervasiveness of impunity all underlie the basic forms of corruption.

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2019/01/15/strategies-for-winning-the-fight-against-corruption/

For more on this theme:

AP Exclusive: UN health chief orders probe into misconduct
https://www.apnews.com/0309500d252b4d63aab359d4c4e1965f

Journalist in Ghana who exposed soccer corruption shot dead
https://www.apnews.com/27cc00bdbaf2445a13283e3c459d0db

First of its kind, Cameroon, Nigeria to collaborate in anti-corruption campaign

Will Peru’s Institutions Withstand the Corruption Test?

China Hints at New Anti-Corruption Direction

Guatemala in crisis after president bans corruption investigation into his government

Why Guatemala’s 180 on corruption matters for Central America

Corruption threatens Africa’s nonprofit and charity sector

Corruption in Mexico 2019: SWJ Interview with Dr. Jose Ivan Rodriguez Sanchez
DRUG TRAFFICKING

The Expendables: The Weakest Links in the Drug Trafficking Chain
Connectas – InSight Crime: 4 January 2019

Women in Bolivia have fallen victim to the drug trade as more and more are being recruited to become drug mules and transport the drugs to Chile’s growing market.

https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/expendables-weakest-link/

Lack of Federal Approval To Study Marijuana Leaves Researchers In The Dark
Arjun Singh – WGBH: 9 January 2019

By keeping marijuana as a Schedule 1 narcotic, the U.S. government is hampering efforts to research the drug and its effects. The one facility available to supply marijuana for research isn’t producing the more potent strains already available in the states where the drug is legal.


For more on this theme:

Gaza’s Opioid Problem
https://www.thenation.com/article/gaza-opioid-problem/

Drugs and syringes have become such a problem in Starbucks bathrooms that the company is installing needle-disposal boxes in certain locations

Here’s why doctors are backing pill testing at music festivals across Australia

Iran to cut ties with EU on drug trafficking, migration issues: reports

Poppy cultivation down, but drug trade grows

Criminal gangs ‘abuse’ UK anti-slavery law to recruit child drug mules

Kings of cocaine: how the Albanian mafia seized control of the UK drugs trade

Brazil’s drug gangs are prepared to go to war with Bolsonaro

Central America aid would slow illegal drug trade, and reduce numbers fleeing it

How Drugs Pour Into the U.S. From Mexico
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Facial recognition to combat wildlife trafficking
Jacqueline B. Ramos – The Ecologist: 14 January 2019
Algorithms can be trained to recognize ape faces as well as human faces. Now, the software program ChimpFace is being deployed to help track down poachers who traffic the animals online.
https://theecologist.org/2019/jan/14/facial-recognition-combat-wildlife-trafficking

We have the tools to tackle illegal fishing. It’s time to use them
Jim Leape – World Economic Forum: 18 January 2019
Satellites, facial recognition technology, artificial intelligence and drones can help governments catch the boats responsible for illegal fishing. These tools can also bring transparency to the fishing industry.
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/we-have-the-tools-to-tackle-illegal-fishing-lets-use-them/

For more on this theme:
India’s illegal mines: death traps no one is policing

Vast Amounts of Illegally Mined Atomic Mineral Found in Tamil Nadu
https://www.thewire.in/business/illegal-sand-mining-monazite-tamil-nadu

Mexican fishermen attack Sea Shepherd vessel protecting vaquita porpoise

China needs zero-tolerance approach to illegal wildlife trade
http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1136161.shtml

Get those young digital natives in the room when talking wildlife

Peru Failing to Combat Illegal Logging in Amazon Claims Report

How Illegally Harvested Timber Is ‘Greenwashed’ in China

‘One fish at a time’: Indonesia lands remarkable victory

Illegal mining in the Amazon at unprecedented levels, high-tech mapping could thwart criminals
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Human Trafficking Reaches ‘Horrific’ New Heights, Declares U.N. Report

Girls are being trafficked at “horrific” levels, and children are increasingly being used to support military units in conflict zones, according to the United Nations’ 2018 “Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.”


Full report:
2018 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

30,000 Irregular Migration Deaths, Disappearances Between 2018-2014: IOM Report
International Organization for Migration: 11 January 2019

Between 2014 and 2018, more than 30,000 migrants were killed or vanished while trying to reach their destinations. Drowning accounted for more than 19,000 deaths and disappearances.


For more on this theme:
UNICEF Is Working To Prevent Human Trafficking In Humanitarian Emergencies

Countries face tighter scrutiny on trafficking under U.S. law
http://news.trust.org/item/20190109211016-vo0m2

Hong Kong lawmaker vows fresh push for UK-style anti-slavery law
http://news.trust.org/item/20190109081753-gggd/

Human trafficking is a global epidemic. And we can all help fight it

Inside GEN, the nonprofit combatting human trafficking with big data

With Ethiopia’s border now open, why are Eritreans still fleeing to Sudan?
https://africanarguments.org/2019/01/15/ethiopia-border-open-why-eritreans-sudan-fleeing/

Experience With Irregular Migration is the Best Teacher
http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/01/experience-irregular-migration-best-teacher/

Here’s Why Colombia Opened Its Arms to Venezuelan Migrants — Until Now
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Emulating China and Russia, More Countries Crack Down on Internet Freedoms
Justin Sherman – World Politics Review: 11 January 2019

States looking to maintain a free and open internet need to pay attention to their own policies — and to those of their adversaries. That’s especially true as those countries that wish to restrict access are quickly spreading their models around the globe.


For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) It’s time for a new way to regulate social media platforms
(Australia) DTA gets ball rolling on upgrading Australia’s .gov.au administration service
(Global) 2019 Trends: The First Cloud Era Is Over, Now The Real Fun Begins

INTERNET FREEDOM

Africa offline ... 2019 has civil rights groups worried
Vincent Matinde – ITWeb Africa: 17 January 2019

In the first few weeks of 2019, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon have shut down their internets to maintain control over the information their citizens receive.


For more on this theme:
(Zimbabwe) Zimbabwe offline as govt moves to control communication
(Global) National borders don’t stop in the physical world – they’re in cyberspace too
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/virtual-borders/
(Global) Internet shutdowns aren’t just Africa’s problem. They’re happening worldwide
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Privacy, Cybersecurity, and the Internet of Things in Asia: What to Expect in 2019
Hogan Lovells – Lexology: 14 January 2019

Some Asian lawmakers are considering data protection laws similar to those in the General Data Protection Regulation passed last year in Europe. But the lawmakers aren’t expected to abandon their more nationalized, protectionist internet policies.

https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=c7293067-844f-4f90-88e1-7ddf3f413483

For more on this theme:

(Global) Recommendation in Favor of Google Allows for Balkanization of Data Governance

(Global) Why Privacy Standards Need to Catch Up With the Rapidly Advancing Internet of Things

(Global) Free tools empower public in bid for online privacy

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Denmark Adopts New Strategy for Cyber Security
Shailaja A. Lakshmi – Maritime Logistics Professional: 16 January 2019

The Danish Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs launched a new strategy for the shipping industry as part of an overall strategy for cyber and information security. It incorporates a range of initiatives aimed at strengthening information technology security and preventing maritime cyber threats.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) The Cybersecurity 202: Is Trump’s get-tough cyber strategy working? Former officials develop a way to find out

(U.S.) The Myth of the Cyber Offense: The Case for Restraint

(Australia) Australia to harden GPS infrastructure cyber defences

(U.S.) Cyber Needs to Be Integrated, Not Treated Uniquely
https://www.afcea.org/content/cyber-needs-be-integrated-not-treated-uniquely
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

_in rural America, state laws warp high-speed internet access_
A law on the books since 1942 is preventing Mississippi from taking advantage of federal dollars earmarked to expand high-speed internet into rural areas.

For more on this theme:
(Tuvalu) World Bank promises better internet for Tuvalu
https://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/380366/world-bank-promises-better-internet-for-tuvalu
(Africa) The technology driving Africa’s Smart Cities
https://www.itnewsafrica.com/2019/01/the-technology-driving-africas-smart-cities/
(U.S.) Gov. Edwards welcomes cyber partnership with Israeli Firm at LSU

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Is China Really Cheating?
Stephen Roach – Bloomberg: 15 January 2019
The evidence behind the intellectual property theft and cyber espionage charges frequently leveled against China is a lot thinner than most people think.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) DoJ Leaders Discuss Approach to Foreign Cyber Threats
https://www.meritalk.com/articles/doj-leaders-discuss-approach-to-foreign-cyber-threats/
(South Korea) Hackers breach and steal data from South Korea’s Defense Ministry
(Iran, Global) A Worldwide Hacking Spree Uses DNS Trickery to Nab Data
https://www.wired.com/story/iran-dns-hijacking/
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Connecting the unconnected in Kenya’s urban slums
Josephine Miliza – Global Voices: 16 January 2019

Community networks can help connect rural communities to the internet and increase education and training in underserved countries.
https://rising.globalvoices.org/blog/2019/01/16/connecting-the-unconnected-in-kenyas-urban-slums/

For more on this theme:
(India) How Technology is Enhancing Local-Level Governance
https://thewire.in/government/how-technology-has-enhanced-local-level-governance-in-haryana
(U.K.) GCHQ’s cyber security centre is launching all-female cyber skills classes to attract more girls into sector
(U.S.) Broadband expert says USDA shutdown is hurting rural internet expansion

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Cybercrime Gangs Advertise Fresh Jobs, Hacking Services

An international group of hackers known as The Dark Overlord has been posting “hackers for hire” advertisements — outwardly flaunting the group’s abilities and financial gains.
https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/cybercrime-gangs-advertise-fresh-jobs-hacking-services-a-11934

For more on this theme:
(Global) Cybercrime Could Cost Companies US$5.2 Trillion Over Next Five Years, According to New Research from Accenture
https://apnews.com/ac9bb114045c49c59089abae155045e4
(Australia) Defence chief issues cyber crime warning
(Global) How cybercrime feeds on modernization
https://gcn.com/articles/2019/01/14/modernization-vulnerabilities-cybercrime.aspx
INFORMATION SHARING

**MyHealthMyData: towards smarter, safer data sharing**
*Health Europa: 18 January 2019*

Anna Rizzo, project manager of the independent strategy consultancy Lynkeus, explains how the MyHealthMyData project will enable secure data sharing among hospitals, public and private research centers, and citizens.

https://www.healtheuropa.eu/myhealthmydata/89843/

For more on this theme:

**(U.S.) State Cybersecurity Centers Nurture Solutions and Relationships**

**(U.S.) The Department of Health and Human Services Issues Guidelines on Cybersecurity**

**(Philippines) DICT unveils nat’l cyber intel platform**

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**Russians are confident in their cyber-defences, most other countries are less sure**
*Steve Ranger – ZDNet: 15 January 2019*

A Pew Research Center survey found that most people think hackers will target critical infrastructure in their countries. The survey of 26 countries found that the attitudes about cyber attacks varied from country to country, with the Russians more confident than other countries that the government was prepared.

https://www.zdnet.com/article/russians-are-confident-in-their-cyber-defences-most-other-countries-are-less-sure/

For more on this theme:

**(Global) Cyber security: This giant blind spot will cost us dear**

https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/grid-electrification-addressing-92799/

**(U.S.) How the government shutdown is putting national cybersecurity at risk**
ISIS

**How Strong Is The Islamic State In Syria?**

With the recent ISIS attack in Manbij, Syria, calls to maintain a U.S. presence in Syria and Iraq to fight ISIS have grown stronger. The attack raised a lot of questions about the future of ISIS, the U.S. withdrawal and the wider war in Syria.

https://www.npr.org/2019/01/17/686207495/how-strong-is-the-islamic-state-in-syria

**Software To Identify Islamic State Propaganda Developed By Georgia State Researcher, Collaborators**
*Georgia State University: 15 January 2019*

A U.S. terrorism expert at Georgia State University and his collaborators have developed software that can help identify online Islamic State propaganda by analyzing the music embedded in their soundtracks.

https://news.gsu.edu/2019/01/15/georgia-state-researcher-helps-create-software-to-screen-for-terrorist-propaganda-videos/

*For more on this theme:*

**Exclusive Interview With Convicted ISIS Jihadi Part 3**

**New ISIS Threat Tells Jihadists to Bomb Electrical Infrastructure**

**Dissent in the Islamic State: ‘Hashimi Advice’ to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi**
https://www.meforum.org/57550/dissent-in-islamic-state

**How defeated is the Islamic State?**
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/01/17/how-defeated-is-islamic-state/

**Fact Check: Has ISIS been defeated?**

**Report: ISIS at large in Sinai**

**ISIS sleeper cells increase attacks away from the battlefield in Syria**

**Nigeria’s military struggles with Islamic State: Part 1 – an upsurge in attacks**
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

West mustn’t ignore threat of al-Shabaab

The author argues that ignoring al-Shabaab would be to the detriment of the Western nations because the group has the potential to grow.


The Taliban’s Delusion Hampers Reconciliation
Daud Khattak – The Diplomat: 17 January 2019

Iran’s support is helping bolster the Taliban’s stance that it will not talk with the Afghan government. The group’s successful attacks against Afghan forces and the diplomatic engagement of neighbors helps the Taliban maintain the delusion that it can continue without seeking reconciliation.

https://thediplomat.com/2019/01/the-talibans-delusion-hampers-reconciliation/

For more on this theme:

How Does Terrorism Overlap With Criminality?

Hezbollah planned surprise ‘earthquake-like’ invasion of Israel: ex-IDF chief

War on Hezbollah is near

Why Lebanon’s problems serve the interests of Hezbollah

Terrorism in the West: Comparing the Threat in Europe and the U.S.

It’s not just ISIS. Many terrorist groups have been declared dead — only to rise again.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/01/17/its-not-just-isis-many-terrorist-groups-have-been-declared-dead-only-rise-again/

Shabaab kills pro-Islamic State commander

‘The Taliban Made Me Fight’: What to Do With Child Recruits After They Serve Time?

Why the Afghan Taliban Are Ready to Talk
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Research Shows Terrorists Aren’t Necessarily Uneducated. So How Can Education Prevent Terror?
Liam Duffy – Just Security: 7 January 2019

Education has been touted as the ultimate antidote to extremism. But it appears that terrorists are more likely than not to be educated these days. Perhaps it is the type of education and how it is received that is the problem.

https://www.justsecurity.org/61998/research-shows-terrorists-aren’t-necessarily-uneducated-education-prevent-terror/

How Islamic State recruiters groomed teen into suicide bomber
Mark Saunokonoko – 9 News: 16 January 2019

The story of a teenage boy’s recruitment to ISIS shows how the group can radicalize an individual entirely over the internet.


For more on this theme:
The Case for P/CVE in France
https://eeradicalization.com/the-case-for-p-cve-in-france/

French Prisons: Incubators of Terror
https://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/272487/french-prisons-incubators-terror-stephen-brown

Gov’t Must Deepen Efforts in Prevention and Spread of Violent Extremism

How to counter radicalisation in Jammu & Kashmir
https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/how-to-counter-radicalisation-in-jammu-kashmir/story-azWD-dkR3o5zQa94wSu2aL.html

To recruit in the U.S., ISIS steals Western ideas, says terrorism expert Robert Pape

Job group promises to save youngsters from radicalization

Violent Radicalization and Social Media: The Unending Game of Suspension and ‘Resurrection’

Radicalization: Reasons and contemporary threats in Uzbekistan

Preventing Violent Extremism In Africa Through Collaboration
https://leadership.ng/2019/01/17/preventing-violent-extremism-in-africa-through-collaboration/
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

In limbo: ‘Isis children’ in prison
Sam Mednick – Mail & Guardian: 18 January 2019

The detention of accused ISIS children in Iraq, along with reports of their torture and forced confessions, has become a point of contention. The “principle under international law is that children forced to join an armed group should be seen as victims of forced child recruitment, not as criminals,” Belkis Wille, senior Iraq researcher for Human Rights Watch, told the Mail & Guardian.


For more on this theme:

ISIS wives: The lost women of war
https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5444409,00.html

Terrorism experts applaud minister’s clarifications on returned foreign fighters

Three out of four returning fighters no longer pose a threat

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Strategy to counter terrorism in Africa
CNBC Africa: 16 January 2019

Africa has seen an upsurge in violent terrorist attacks. Akinola Olojo, senior researcher at the Institute for Security Studies, spoke to CNBC Africa about security and countering potential terror attacks.


For more on this theme:

UK government fighting to keep details of counter-extremism radio shows secret
https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/prevent-radio-drama-arts-funding-1931026507

Fight against terrorism bearing fruit, more still needed to succeed
https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001309816/counter-terrorism-efforts-bearing-fruits-more-needed

Here’s a secret: We may be winning the war on terrorism

Terror attacks in 2019 highlight challenges remain

Why Is China Vulnerable to Terrorism in Pakistan?