

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Malaysia's Top Anti-Corruption Cop Sues Whistleblower for Defamation

Zsombor Peter – Voice of America: 23 January 2022

Malaysia's anti-corruption czar has sued a local journalist for defamation over articles questioning the legality of his past shareholdings. The case is seen by some as a bellwether and test of the country's rule of law.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/malaysia-s-top-anti-corruption-cop-sues-whistleblower-for-defamation-/6408784.html>

Corruption is on the rise and pummeling human rights: New report

Al Jazeera: 25 January 2022

Some governments have used the coronavirus pandemic to allow corruption to flourish, Transparency International warns.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/1/25/corruption-is-on-the-rise-and-pummeling-human-rights-new-report>

Full report:

Corruption Perceptions Index

<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2021>

For more on this theme:

Ousted Myanmar leader Suu Kyi faces 5 new corruption charges

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2022/jan/14/ousted-myanmar-leader-suu-kyi-faces-5-new-corrupti/>

Corruption laws needed now

<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/editorial-corruption-laws-needed-now.927574>

Anti-Corruption Judge Becomes Next Target of Guatemala Prosecutors

<https://insightcrime.org/news/anti-corruption-judge-becomes-next-target-guatemala-prosecutors/>

Data centre to keep tabs on corruption

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2250191/data-centre-to-keep-tabs-on-corruption>

Rewarding public officials for successful enforcement could cut low-level corruption

<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/news/2022/january/rewards-public-officials-cut-petty-corruption/>

Corruption rife in Pak jails: Human Rights Ministry's report

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/corruption-rife-in-pak-jails-human-rights-ministrys-report20220116055932/>

Malaysia's Corruption Watchdog Under Fire

<https://www.asiasentinel.com/p/malaysia-corruption-watchdog-under-fire>

South African corruption probe flags COVID contracts worth \$137 million

<https://news.trust.org/item/20220125104341-b6kel/>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

'The deadliest drug we've ever known': author Sam Quinones on how fentanyl saturated the US

Erin McCormick – The Guardian: 23 January 2022

For the past nine years, Sam Quinones has been studying the changing face of drug use, sales and addiction in the United States. In his new book, he tracks the explosion of synthetics that has hit the streets, increasing the danger of drug use and making addictive chemical substances far cheaper and more plentiful.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/jan/22/fentanyl-methamphetamine-drugs-epidemic-us>

China Producers Cashing in on Online Sale of Fentanyl Precursors

Juan Diego Posada – InSight Crime: 21 January 2022

Chinese companies are turning to online sales to supply the fentanyl precursor market in Mexico, just as more criminal groups are seeking to enter the lucrative synthetic drugs business.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/china-producers-cashing-in-on-online-sale-of-fentanyl-precursors/>

For more on this theme:

Opioid Smuggling In The Black Sea – Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/17012022-opioid-smuggling-in-the-black-sea-analysis/>

Instagram's hidden drug market for teens is out of control

<https://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/instagram-drug-problem-teens/>

Drug mafia & role of private ports

<https://www.thehansindia.com/hans/opinion/news-analysis/drug-mafia-role-of-private-ports-725036>

The other side of Afghanistan: Lives hooked on drugs

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220113-the-other-side-of-afghanistan-lives-hooked-on-drugs/>

Jordanian officer killed trying to stop drug smuggling from Syria

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2005296/middle-east>

Conviction For Infamous Drug Kingpin 'El Chapo' Upheld By U.S. Court

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/joewalsh/2022/01/25/conviction-for-infamous-drug-kingpin-el-chapo-upheld-by-us-court/?sh=5b54d8fd4e9f>

Honduran president's fall from grace poised to end in US indictment

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/26/honduras-juan-orlando-hernandez-president>

More Questions than Clarity Following Former Anti-Drug Chief's Arrest in Bolivia

<https://insightcrime.org/news/more-questions-clarity-bolivia-anti-drug-arrest/>

Think tank analyst talks Middle East drug trade with i24NEWS

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/1643091766-think-tank-analyst-talks-middle-east-drug-trade-with-i24news>

Chile's Microtrafficking Zero Program: Success or Failure?

<https://insightcrime.org/news/chiles-microtrafficking-zero-program-success-or-failure/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Illicit Gold Mining in Ecuador – Challenges and Considerations

Scott B. MacDonald and Bruce Zagaris – Global Americans: 25 January 2022

Ecuador is looking into developing its mining industry, but it has challenges – including the criminal organizations already involved in the business.

<https://theglobalamericans.org/2022/01/illicit-gold-mining-in-ecuador-challenges-and-considerations/>

Using citizen science to track illegal wildlife trade in the Himalayas

TV Padma – Mongabay: 21 January 2022

Citizen apps that help residents collect data, usually with smartphones, could help plug information gaps and track illegal wildlife trade in the biodiversity-rich Himalayas, a new paper says.

<https://india.mongabay.com/2022/01/using-citizen-science-to-track-illegal-wildlife-trade-in-the-himalayas/>

For more on this theme:

Operation Against Illegal Mining Affects Finances of FARC Dissident Group

<https://dialogo-amicas.com/articles/operation-against-illegal-mining-affects-finances-of-farc-dissident-group/>

A story of two fevers: when malaria is the price of gold

<https://blogs.biomedcentral.com/bugbitten/2022/01/14/when-malaria-is-the-price-of-gold/>

Amid Pandemic, Tribal-Run Conservation in Africa Proves Resilient

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/amid-pandemic-tribal-run-conservation-in-africa-proves-resilient>

Interagency group to tackle online illegal trade of wildlife species in Sabah

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/01/765444/interagency-group-tackle-online-illegal-trade-wildlife-species-sabah>

Combating wildlife crime with the East Africa Prosecution Association

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/combating-wildlife-crime-with-the-east-africa-prosecution-association/ar-AASZUAe?ocid=uxbndlbing>

A plant that outlived dinosaurs is being poached to extinction, crime analysts warn

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2022/01/21/a-plant-that-outlived-dinosaurs-is-being-poached-to-extinction-crime-analysts-warn>

New-found species risk extinction due to illegal wildlife trade and climate change

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/nature/1556222/extinction-risk-wwf-illegal-wildlife-trade-climate-change>

Africa's traditional Chinese medicine boom sparks fears for endangered species

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/medicine-01202022145505.html>

Rhino horn consumers reveal why a legal trade alone won't save rhinos

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/wildlife-biodiversity/rhino-horn-consumers-reveal-why-a-legal-trade-alone-won-t-save-rhinos-81236>

MONEY LAUNDERING AND ORGANIZED CRIME

Drugs, real estate and money laundering in Senegal

Abdelkader Abderrahmane – Institute for Security Studies: 20 January 2022

In February 2021, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) added Senegal to its grey list, indicating the country doesn't fully comply with international standards against money laundering and terrorism financing. Cooperation with the FATF could get the country off the list and strengthen its economy.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/drugs-real-estate-and-money-laundering-in-senegal>

Crypto money laundering rises 30%, report finds

BBC: 27 January 2022

Criminals laundered \$8.6 billion of cryptocurrency in 2021, up 30% from the previous year, a report by blockchain data company Chainalysis says.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-60072195>

For more on this theme:

Biden highlights anti-money laundering as a tool to combat corruption

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/biden-highlights-anti-money-laundering-tool-combat-corruption-2022-01-19/>

SOUTHCOM Plans a Space Component to Help Fight Crime, Grow Ties in the Americas

<https://www.airforcemag.com/southcom-plans-a-space-component-to-help-fight-crime-grow-ties-in-the-americas/>

Anti-Money Laundering Act Update: One Year In

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/anti-money-laundering-act-update-one-year>

The Three Criminal Fronts Sparking Violence in Sonora, Mexico

<https://insightcrime.org/news/three-criminal-fronts-behind-violence-sonora-mexico/>

Spain Receives Support from Europol to Fight Organized Crime

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/15742-spain-receives-support-from-europol-to-fight-organized-crime>

Organized Crime Perpetuating Instability, Violence, Poverty across West Africa, Sahel, Executive Director Tells Security Council

<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/organized-crime-perpetuating-instability-violence-poverty-across-west-africa-sahel>

Port expansions could expose Kenya to more crime

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/port-expansions-could-expose-kenya-to-more-crime>

Europe's dirty problem: Environmental crime

<https://www.politico.eu/article/europe-sustainability-waste-eu-environmental-crime/>

Transitioning Of The Law On Money Laundering In India

<https://www.livelaw.in/columns/the-prevention-of-money-laundering-act-2002-pmla-finance-act-ndps-act-1995-money-laundering-190165>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Europe pitches tech ‘principles’ to rule the internet

Clothilde Goujard and Laurens Cerulus – Politico: 26 January 2022

As geopolitical tensions over the control of technology rise, Europe is putting its foot down on how it wants the internet to run. The European Commission presented its Digital Decade Principles aimed at defining the 27-country bloc’s vision of how the digital economy should abide by values such as democracy, privacy, solidarity, freedom of choice and security.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/europe-tech-principles-internet-rules-digital-rights/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) What is web3? It’s Silicon Valley’s latest identity crisis

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/web3-s-silicon-valleys-latest-identity-crisis-rcna9846>

(China) China cyberspace regulator says it will build solid national cyber security barrier

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-cyberspace-regulator-says-it-will-build-solid-national-cyber-security-2022-01-06/>

(China) A metaverse with Chinese characteristics is a clean and compliant metaverse

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/a-metaverse-with-chinese-characteristics-is-a-clean-and-compliant-metaverse/articleshow/89129704.cms>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Myanmar’s military junta seeks ban on VPNs and digital currency

Laura Dobberstein – The Register: 24 January 2022

Myanmar’s military junta has floated a cybersecurity law that would ban the use of virtual private networks under penalty of imprisonment and/or fines, leaving digital rights organizations concerned about the effects of further closing off the country digitally to the outside world.

https://www.theregister.com/2022/01/24/myanmar_military_junta_bans_vpn_crypto/

For more on this theme:

(China, Latin America) China Seen Backing ‘Digital Authoritarianism’ in Latin America

<https://www.voanews.com/a/china-seen-backing-digital-authoritarianism-in-latin-america-6398072.html>

(Global) These Are the Countries Where Twitter, Facebook and TikTok Are Banned

<https://time.com/6139988/countries-where-twitter-facebook-tiktok-banned/>

(Kazakhstan, Global) Kazakhstan’s Internet Shutdown is the Latest Episode in an Ominous Trend: Digital Authoritarianism

<https://www.nextgov.com/policy/2022/01/kazakhstans-internet-shutdown-latest-episode-ominous-trend-digital-authoritarianism/361073/>

CYBERSECURITY

NIST Releases Final Cybersecurity Assessment Guidance

Alexandra Kelley – Nextgov: 25 January 2022

The U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology issued its latest guidance for organizations to assess their internal-security information technology systems.

<https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2022/01/nist-releases-final-cybersecurity-assessment-guidance/361165/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Getting Ahead of Cybersecurity Challenges in 2022

<https://securityboulevard.com/2022/01/top-10-challenges-cyber-security-will-face-in-2022/>

(Japan) Why cyber defense in Japan is so unreliable

<https://apinitiative.org/en/2022/01/17/31639/>

(U.S., Global) How Do You Diversify And Strengthen The Cybersecurity Field?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/marybethgasman/2022/01/14/how-do-you-diversify-and-strengthen-the-cybersecurity-field/?sh=31ac97ae38ee>

(Global) Cybersecurity outlook 2022: Consultants cite 5 trends

<https://searchhitchannel.techtarget.com/feature/Cybersecurity-outlook-Consultants-cite-5-trends>

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

FBI Officials Clarify What the Bureau Wants in Cyber Incident Reporting Bill

Mariam Baksh – Nextgov: 13 January 2022

The need for legislation requiring companies to report cybersecurity incidents to the government is obvious, but it should be tweaked to explicitly include the FBI, according to the law enforcement agency.

<https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2022/01/fbi-officials-clarify-what-bureau-wants-cyber-incident-reporting-bill/360726/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Pentagon Moves to Improve its Cybersecurity-Centered Engagement with Universities

<https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2022/01/pentagon-moves-improve-its-cybersecurity-centered-engagement-universities/360663/>

(Global) Closing The Cyber Gap: Business And Security Leaders At Crossroads As Cybercrime Spikes

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/18012022-closing-the-cyber-gap-business-and-security-leaders-at-crossroads-as-cybercrime-spikes/>

(U.S.) Tech sector embraces public-private collaboration on open-source software security

<https://www.csoonline.com/article/3646993/tech-sector-embraces-public-private-collaboration-on-open-source-software-security.html>

CYBERCRIME

New Initiative Aims to Divert Young People from Cybercrime

Homeland Security Today: 17 January 2022

A new initiative to divert young people from criminality has been launched in the United Kingdom after cyberattacks designed to block access to schools' networks or websites have more than doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/new-initiative-aims-to-divert-young-people-from-cybercrime/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Cybercrime: Rising Concern to Cyber World

<https://securityboulevard.com/2022/01/cybercrime-rising-concern-to-cyber-world/>

(Global) Criminalizing cybercrime and raising the risk for cyberattackers

<https://www.intelligentcio.com/north-america/2022/01/17/criminalizing-cybercrime-and-raising-the-risk-for-cyberattackers/>

(Global) Lack of awareness, social media overuse reasons for rise in cybercrime, say experts

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/pune-news/lack-of-awareness-social-media-overuse-reasons-for-rise-in-cybercrime-say-experts-101642523512673.html>

MASS SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

China steps up online surveillance in countdown to Winter Olympics

Bloomberg: 25 January 2022

Chinese authorities target online rumors, effeminate celebrities and fan groups to cultivate a “healthy” environment.

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bloomberg/news/2022-01-25-china-steps-up-online-surveillance-in-countdown-to-winter-olympics/>

For more on this theme:

(Europe, China) Security scanners across Europe tied to China govt, military

<https://apnews.com/article/technology-business-china-russia-europe-120b7dedacd8d545bf4521a1948bc31e>

(Global) A Beginner's Guide to Cyber War, Cyber Terrorism and Cyber Espionage

<https://securityboulevard.com/2022/01/a-beginners-guide-to-cyber-war-cyber-terrorism-and-cyber-espionage/>

(China) How China spies on the West

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/how-china-spies-on-the-west>

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Canada urges critical infrastructure firms to be ready for Russian-based cyber attacks

Howard Solomon – IT World Canada: 20 January 2022

The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security issued a cyber threat bulletin following similar alerts issued by the United States and United Kingdom. The warnings came a week after a Russian-based threat actor allegedly attacked computer systems in Ukraine. Russia has amassed an army on Ukraine's border.

<https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/canada-urges-critical-infrastructure-firms-to-be-ready-for-russian-based-cyber-attacks/471002>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Space race needs better cybersecurity

<https://thehill.com/opinion/cybersecurity/589542-space-race-needs-better-cybersecurity?rl=1>

(U.S.) A look inside the TSA's new cybersecurity regime for pipelines and railroads

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2022/01/a-look-inside-the-tsa-new-cybersecurity-regime-for-pipelines-and-railroads/>

(Russia, Belarus, Global) 'Cyberpartisans' hack Belarusian railway to disrupt Russian buildup

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/25/cyberpartisans-hack-belarusian-railway-to-disrupt-russian-buildup>

(U.S., Russia) DHS warns of potential Russia cyberattacks amid tensions

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/24/politics/russia-cyberattack-warning-homeland-security/index.html>

(Australia) Protecting Australia's critical infrastructure with AI

<https://securitybrief.com.au/story/protecting-australia-s-critical-infrastructure-with-ai>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Who are the kids trapped in Syria prison attack?

Zeina Karam – The Associated Press: 26 January 2022

Hundreds of minors are thought to be holed up in Gweiran Prison, which has been at the center of a violent standoff between Islamic State group militants and U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters.

<https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-syria-iraq-islamic-state-group-8ad5b1b14b10702e5fc59c4b-4f382ac1>

A foiled prison break brings a sense of deja vu — and fears of an Islamic State resurgence

Nabih Bulos – Los Angeles Times: 26 January 2022

The assault by more than 100 Islamic State group extremists on Gweiran Prison, a detention center in northeast Syria that holds thousands of their comrades, marked the most sophisticated attack the group has carried out since it was routed in the region almost three years ago — and it could be a harbinger of its resurgence.

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2022-01-26/foiled-prison-break-syria-fears-islamic-state-resurgence>

For more on this theme:

US ‘concerned’ by attacks on al-Hol camp’s health workers: embassy

<https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/130120221>

Militants’ bodies left to rot for years, in symbol of Libya’s disarray

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/militants-bodies-left-rot-years-symbol-libyas-disarray-2022-01-13/>

Former Islamic State-Khorasan chief Asif Farooqi killed in Afghanistan

<https://www.timesnownews.com/international/article/former-islamic-state-khorasan-chief-asif-farooqi-killed-in-afghanistan/850487>

Mozambique: Better co-ordination needed to tackle Islamist insurgency – experts

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/africa/mozambique-better-co-ordination-needed-to-tackle-islamist-insurgency-experts-1.4779712>

Fear stalks city in Islamic State’s Afghan heartland

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220121-fear-stalks-city-in-islamic-state-s-afghan-heartland>

Video of Child Militants Executing Nigerian Soldiers Raises Concerns

<https://www.voanews.com/a/video-of-child-militants-executing-nigerian-soldiers-raises-concerns-/6407395.html>

Activities of Islamic State in Afghanistan matter of concern, says Indian ambassador to UN

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/islamic-state-afghanistan-concern-india-ambassador-united-nations-tirumurti-1904927-2022-01-26>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Revisiting the Beginning of Boko Haram

Bulama Bukarti – War on the Rocks: 24 January 2022

Boko Haram, one of the most brutal terrorist groups in history, has killed an estimated 35,000 people in northeast Nigeria. The violence has devastated communities, leading to the displacement of over 3 million people, and has plunged millions more into extreme poverty.

<https://warontherocks.com/2022/01/revisiting-the-beginning-of-boko-haram/>

Surge in Militant Islamist Violence in the Sahel Dominates Africa's Fight against Extremists

Africa Center for Strategic Studies: 24 January 2022

A 70% annual increase in violent events linked to militant Islamist groups in the Sahel propelled a new record of extremist violence in Africa in 2021.

<https://africacenter.org/spotlight/mig2022-01-surge-militant-islamist-violence-sahel-dominates-africa-fight-extremists/>

For more on this theme:

Taliban 2.0 isn't so different from the first regime

<https://sports.yahoo.com/taliban-2-0-isnt-different-193533029.html>

Taliban's foreign policy poses risks at home and abroad

<https://asiatimes.com/2022/01/talibans-foreign-policy-poses-risks-at-home-and-abroad/>

Regional Taliban Officials Ban Beard Trimming, Impose Turbans For Male Employees

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/taliban-beard-trimming-turbans/31658539.html>

Burkina Faso: A history of destabilisation by jihadist insurgencies

<https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20220125-burkina-faso-a-history-of-destabilisation-by-jihadist-insurgencies>

Mysterious Attacks On Afghan Activists, Journalists Raise Fears Over Free Speech Under Taliban

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/attacks-activists-journalists-taliban-free-speech/31665428.html>

Qaeda Announces Death of Former Bin Laden Associate in US Strike in Yemen

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3427881/qaeda-announces-death-former-bin-laden-associate-us-strike-yemen>

Nigeria extremists still 'very dangerous,' says UN official

<https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-united-nations-boko-haram-abuja-nigeria-e288efab-364f0a2ed231f506692af1bd>

Are Hezbollah's Lebanese Allies Turning Against It?

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/are-hezbollah%E2%80%99s-lebanese-allies-turning-against-it-199701>

In Sign Of Deepening Ties, Taliban Increases Afghanistan's Water Flow To Iran

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/taliban-increases-ties-water-iran/31672858.html>

RADICALIZATION

Twitter Suspended 44K Accounts for Promoting Terrorism, Violent Orgs in First Half of 2021

Zoe Strozewski – Newsweek: 25 January 2022

In the first six months of 2021, Twitter suspended 44,974 individual accounts for promoting terrorism or violent organizations, according to the social media platform's new transparency report. Of those accounts, 93% were "proactively identified and actioned," the report said.

<https://www.newsweek.com/twitter-suspended-44k-accounts-promoting-terrorism-violent-orgs-first-half-2021-1672868>

For more on this theme:

Countering hate in the digital world

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/bulli-bai-sulli-deals-digital-pollution-7726705/>

How Radio Programming Can Fight Violent Extremism in West Africa

<https://www.nyu.edu/about/news-publications/news/2022/january/how-radio-programming-can-fight-violent-extremism-in-west-africa.html>

Climate Change and Terrorism: Three Risk Pathways to Consider

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/climate-security/climate-change-and-terrorism-three-risk-pathways-to-consider/>

Sweden deports imam accused of being an ISIS recruiter

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/uk-news/2022/01/20/sweden-deports-imam-accused-of-being-an-isis-recruiter/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

There's No End to Fake Chinese Accounts Uncovered on Western Social Media Sites

Tomo Kuwamura – Japan Forward: 21 January 2022

Disguised as belonging to Americans or Europeans, the fake accounts attempt to influence the foreign public on many issues in line with Chinese government positions.

<https://japan-forward.com/theres-no-end-to-fake-chinese-accounts-uncovered-on-western-social-media-sites/>

For more on this theme:

Winter Olympics: Athletes advised to use burner phones in Beijing

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-60034013>

Ransomware isn't always about gangs making money. Sometimes it's about nations manufacturing mayhem.

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/disruptive-ransomware-iran-russia-china/>

New Chinese Threat Group Deals in Espionage and Theft

<https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/new-chinese-threat-group-conducts-espionage-theft-a-18336>

Australia calls on China's Tencent to give back prime minister's WeChat account

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/account-01252022121733.html>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

How Russia conducts false flag operations

U.S. Mission Italy: 21 January 2022

Russia has long conducted “false flag” operations to portray itself or its partners as victims, evade responsibility, sow confusion and create a pretext for war.

<https://it.usembassy.gov/how-russia-conducts-false-flag-operations/>

For more on this theme:

Russia’s other European invasion

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/russias-other-european-invasion/>

Russia’s Latest Return to Latin America

<https://theglobalamericans.org/2022/01/russia-return-latin-america/>

Moscow’s Compellence Strategy

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2022/01/moscows-compellence-strategy/>

China opens new doors in the Middle East

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/589612-china-opens-new-doors-in-the-middle-east?rl=1>

Is Russia or China a bigger threat?

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/589964-is-russia-or-china-a-bigger-threat?rl=1>

After Kazakhstan Crisis, China Will Reassess Its Influence in Central Asia

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/01/after-kazakhstan-crisis-china-will-reassess-its-influence-in-central-asia/>

Australia and New Zealand compete with China for Tonga influence

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Australia-and-New-Zealand-compete-with-China-for-Tonga-influence>

China In Eurasia Briefing: Beijing, Moscow, And A New Central Asia

<https://www.rferl.org/a/china-in-eurasia-briefing-russia-china-kazakhstan/31661047.html>

China in India’s Backyard: Sphere of Influence Does Matter

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/voices/china-in-indias-backyard-sphere-of-influence-does-matter/>

China using its billions to buy political influence across the world

<https://www.therahnuma.com/china-using-its-billions-to-buy-political-influence-across-the-world/>

China’s pull grows in the Middle East

<https://theArabweekly.com/chinas-pull-grows-middle-east>

Beijing’s Public Diplomacy in South And Central Asia

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/01/beijings-public-diplomacy-in-south-and-central-asia/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

Wagner's dubious operations in CAR and beyond

Peter Fabricius – Institute for Security Studies: 21 January 2022

Russia has established a strong presence in the Central African Republic (CAR) over the past four years, clandestinely using dubious actors such as the military company Wagner, which is allegedly close to President Vladimir Putin. Wagner has become the deniable vanguard of a major Russian push into Africa, many analysts say.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/wagners-dubious-operations-in-car-and-beyond>

For more on this theme:

Russian Mercenaries in the Central African Republic Uphold a Problematic Status Quo

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/russian-mercenaries-central-african-republic-uphold-problematic-status-quo-199338>

Hezbollah faces rising dissent, efforts to end Iran's 'occupation' of Lebanon

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2022/01/21/lebanon-Hezbollah-Lebanon-dissent-Iran-occupation/5331642790002/

US AFRICOM Commander Says Russian Mercenaries in Mali

<https://www.voanews.com/a/voa-exclusive-us-africom-commander-says-russian-mercenaries-in-mali/6406371.html>