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CORRUPTION

Russia Proposes Easing Laws On Corruption, Saying It's Unavoidable Sometimes
Bill Chappell – National Public Radio: 29 January 2019

Russia’s Justice Ministry has proposed legislation exempting officials from anti-corruption regulations in "exceptional circumstances." The move follows a plan set in motion last year by Russian President Vladimir Putin.


Fighting Central American corruption will help prevent migration more than any border wall
Los Angeles Times: 30 January 2019

Many of the underlying reasons for the exodus from Central America to the U.S. are financial. Fighting corruption in those nations will help curtail irregular migration.


For more on this theme:

Has Kenya made any significant headway in the fight against corruption?

What the world can learn from Bhutan about fighting corruption

Dousing the fires of corruption

Corruption Is Still Thriving In Modi’s India

Transparency International: Corruption Getting Worse in Asia

Responding To Corruption In South Africa

Ukraine Needs Carrots and Sticks to Fight Corruption

Anti-corruption shortfalls fueling ‘global democracy crisis’: report

World in Progress: Call to ‘break the cycle’ of corruption
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Pharma Spending on Doctors Is Correlated With Opioid Deaths
Eric Niiler – Wired: 18 January 2019

While it has long been suspected that drug companies have an influence on the volume and types of pain medications that doctors prescribe, a new study links direct-to-physician marketing dollars spent by drug companies in a particular community to the number of prescription opioid deaths in that community.

https://www.wired.com/story/pharma-spending-on-doctors-is-correlated-with-opioid-deaths/

‘Colombia of Europe’: How tiny Albania became the continent’s drug trafficking headquarters
Borzou Daragahi – The Independent: 28 January 2019

As Albania cracked down on cannabis shipments to the rest of Europe, the traffickers got better at hiding their wares, making them more difficult to track. Now, traffickers are responsible for moving huge amounts of cocaine from Latin America to the rest of Europe.


For more on this theme:

Switzerland couldn’t stop drug users. So it started supporting them.
https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2019/01/21/switzerland-couldnt-stop-drug-users-so-it-started-supporting-them/

Experts divided over on-the-spot drug possession fines at music festivals

Sri Lanka Pledges to Revive Capital Punishment and Execute Drug Traffickers
http://time.com/5518234/sri-lanka-drug-executions/

The Failing Battle Against Drug Production in Colombia
https://inhomelandsecurity.com/colombia-drug-war/

Mexican President Declares ‘Drug War’ Over
https://theglobepost.com/2019/01/31/mexico-drug-war-over/

Myanmar’s zero-tolerance drug policy is doomed to fail
https://frontiermyanmar.net/en/myanmars-zero-tolerance-drug-policy-is-doomed-to-fail

Why Myanmar can’t shake its drug problem

History, not harm, dictates why some drugs are legal and others aren’t
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

To tackle great ape trafficking, follow the money, report says
Nora Ward – Mongabay: 29 January 2019

A recent study uncovered the financial dealings of the great ape trade in Africa and Asia. Money in this trade runs through the global financial system, opening an avenue for legal sanctions against poachers.

The Rosewood Trade: An Illicit Trail from Forest to Furniture
Sandy Ong and Edward Carver – Yale Environment 360: 29 January 2019

Rosewood is highly prized and critically endangered. An investigation by the online magazine E360 follows the trail of destruction and corruption from the forests of Madagascar to furniture showrooms in China.
https://e360.yale.edu/features/the-rosewood-trade-the-illicit-trail-from-forest-to-furniture

For more on this theme:

Data noose tightening on “handful” of nations responsible for overfishing

New study sheds light on illegal wildlife trade in Hong Kong

Arabic speakers needed in online fight against exotic animal sale
https://www.thenational.ae/uae/arabic-speakers-needed-in-online-fight-against-exotic-animal-sale-1.820490

In China, missing pangolins show endangered species not protected by laws

Environmental laws only look good on paper, UN says

Digital revolution to use the power of data to combat illegal wildlife trade and reduce food waste

Endangered British birds to be killed under permits – here’s how that could fuel an illegal pan-European trade

Let’s talk about the elephant that wasn’t in the room
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Human trafficking cases hit a 13-year record high, new UN report shows
UN News: 29 January 2019

The latest “Global Report on Trafficking in Persons” by the United Nations shows a record number of cases detected during 2016, but also the largest recorded conviction rate of traffickers. This could suggest that the capacity to stop trafficking is improving or that the number of trafficking instances has increased.


Full report:
Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

Poverty, not leading cause of irregular migration — IOM
Daily Trust: 26 January 2019

While speaking in Nigeria, the chief of mission of the International Organization for Migration said the aspiration and mindset of irregular migrants, not poverty, was the leading cause of their migration.


For more on this theme:
Sex trafficking and the Super Bowl: Myths and the real issues

Secret source for trafficked kids: foster care
https://onenewsnow.com/culture/2019/01/29/secret-source-for-trafficked-kids-foster-care

Coyote services aren’t exclusive to the Texas/Mexico border

Europe’s refugee crisis explains why border walls don’t stop migration

EU must end returns to Libya, NGOs say

How the British Government Deters Migrants via the ‘Politics of Exhaustion’

Europe’s Determination to Halt African Migration Makes Friends of Dictators
https://theglobepost.com/2019/01/29/migration-eu-africa/

New report explores smuggling in key African migration hub
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Who Should Govern Your Data? Inside the Privacy Debate in Davos
Robert Hackett – Fortune: 26 January 2019

In Davos, Switzerland, global policymakers and businesses debated the global regulation of data. Some leaned toward lawmaking, while others argued against regulation.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Social media won’t regulate itself. How should we?
https://www.fastcompany.com/90295254/social-media-wont-regulate-itself-how-should-we

(Global) It’s time for a new way to regulate social media platforms

(Global) Member of Estonian delegation to PACE: Human rights on internet require rapid actions
https://www.baltictimes.com/member_of_estonian_delegation_to_pace__human_rights_on_internet_re-quire_rapid_actions/

INTERNET FREEDOM

Why are so many African leaders shutting off the Internet in 2019?
Chipo Dendere – The Washington Post: 30 January 2019

Why have African leaders been shutting down the internet or blocking certain websites within their countries? Because they know they can act with impunity as long as no global deterrents are in place.


For more on this theme:

(India) India's proposed new internet bill is as repressive as the worst of Chinese laws
https://indianexpress.com/article/express-sunday-eye/the-egg-vanishes-5555253/

(Africa) Internet shutdowns violate human rights
https://mg.co.za/article/2019-02-01-00-internet-shutdowns-violate-human-rights

(U.S.) House panel to hold net neutrality hearing
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Chileans Most Worried About Their Internet Privacy
The recent 2019 “Best Countries” survey shows that among the most worried about internet privacy are people in Chile, Kenya and Turkey, while Swedes seem the most relaxed.

For more on this theme:
(Global) The Internet Must Change. To Get There, Start With the Data.
(Global) Has the fight over privacy changed at all in 2019?
(Asia) Asia Internet Coalition raises user privacy and free speech concerns over draft Intermediary Guidelines

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Two ways China could paralyze Taiwan with cyberattacks
Keoni Everington – Taiwan News: 29 January 2019
Postulating on how China could launch a cyber attack against Taiwan, a think tank found that Taiwan’s submarine fiber cables and top-level domain are vulnerable.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Congress again wants the State Department to pay more attention to the internet
(Europe) In search of fairness on the European Digital Market
(Global) Misinformation is a Threat to Democracy in the Developing World
https://www.cfr.org/blog/misinformation-threat-democracy-developing-world
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

**Cyber Security: Business and government team up in the fight**

*Tom Kennedy – Fox News: 28 January 2019*

Global cyber crime continues to expand and become more technologically savvy. The U.S. is responding by changing its hands-off approach to one that requires collaboration between public and private entities.


*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) Private-public partnership bringing faster internet speeds to small towns

(U.S.) Medical devices are woefully insecure. This public-private partnership working to fix that.

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**The Cybersecurity 202: U.S. adversaries are raising their cyber game, intel officials warn**

*Joseph Marks – The Washington Post: 30 January 2019*

The United States’ global adversaries are building their capacity to use cyber weapons against the United States, honing their abilities to conduct acts of sabotage against critical infrastructure and expand cyber espionage operations.


*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) Here Are 3 Cyber Takeaways From the Recent Report on Global Threats

(Global) Cyber Patent Wars Are on the Horizon

(Global) Airbus Has Been Hit By A Data Breach – Here’s What it Could Mean
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

With Innovative Business Models, We Can Make Internet for All a Reality
Modern Diplomacy: 27 January 2019

According to a new World Bank report, creative approaches to close the digital divide are often more feasible than traditional strategies.


Full report:
Innovative Business Models for Expanding Fiber-Optic Networks and Closing the Access Gaps


For more on this theme:

(Lebanon) Lebanon’s first Sustainable Digital Ecosystem Summit marked a new phase for digital transformation in Lebanon


(Bangladesh) Bangladesh turning focus to cyber security, ICT state minister


COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

How a piece of Brazilian malware became a global cybercrime export
Assaf Dahan – TechRadar Pro: 30 January 2019

Brazilian malware has become the weapon of choice for global cyber criminals.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Cybercrime black markets: Dark web services and their prices


(Zimbabwe) Zimbabwe fast-tracks cybercrime legislation


(Global) Accenture: Cybercrime to cost U.S. companies $5.2 trillion by 2024

INFORMATION SHARING

MISO proposal aims to improve cybersecurity coordination with federal agencies
Jasmin Melvin – S & P Global: 29 January 2019

Midcontinent Independent System Operator is seeking approval from the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to expand the list of agencies with which the group can share information during cyber security emergencies.


For more on this theme:
(The Netherlands) Amsterdam toughens up cyber response

(U.S.) Maritime Cybersecurity More Important Than Ever, But Industry Only Talks About It
https://www.insidesources.com/maritime-cybersecurity-more-important-than-ever-but-industry-only-talks-about-it/

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

World Economic Forum: Cyber Attacks And Critical Infrastructure
Andrea Carcano – Information Security Buzz: 30 January 2019

Cyber threats consolidated their position as high-impact and high-likelihood risks in the World Economic Forum’s “Global Risks Report 2018.”

https://www.informationsecuritybuzz.com/expert-comments/world-economic-forum/

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) GPS Backup May Get More Attention as Lawmakers Highlight Risks to Space Assets, Critical Infrastructure

(U.S.) Why America is not prepared for a Stuxnet-like cyber attack on the energy grid
ISIS could reclaim territory in months without military pressure, warns Pentagon in draft report
Courtney Kube, Josh Lederman and Carol E. Lee – NBC News: 31 January 2019

A report from the U.S. Pentagon’s inspector general says ISIS will regain territory it has lost in Syria in a matter of months if the U.S. withdraws its troops. The same report said that ISIS had lost all the territory it had held in Iraq and all but 1 percent of the territory it once held in Syria. However, it added that U.S. military officials and United Nations monitors said that militants had gone underground and were waging an “effective clandestine” insurgency in both countries.


The Islamic State may have a new propaganda haven

One place ISIS hasn’t lost ground is in cyberspace. The group has moved its cyber propaganda arm to ZeroNet, which could change the online fight against the terrorist group.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-islamic-state-might-have-found-the-perfect-propaganda-machine/2019/01/28/0d31f7ec-2036-11e9-8e21-59a09f1e2a1_story.html

For more on this theme:

ISIS Is Still Active in Iraq, Syria and Beyond. This Is What the Threat Looks Like Now
http://time.com/5506007/trump-isis-victory-islamic-state/

What Happened to the Texan Who Became the Goebbels of ISIS?
https://www.meforum.org/57627/texan-became-goebbels-isis

Garbage collection in Syria is crucial to fighting the Islamic State

IS-Supporting Hacktivists in Southeast Asia
https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2321/IS-Supporting_Hacktivists_in_Southeast_Asia#gsc.tab=0

The once vast ISIS ‘caliphate’ is now reduced to a pair of villages in Syria

ISIS makes its final stand in Syria

In Rare Break With Trump, Senate Says ISIS Is Still a Threat

Will Trump’s Taliban deal boost ISIS in Afghanistan?
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Home-grown terror a worsening threat for Kenya
Duncan E. Omondi Gumba and Mohamed Daghar – Institute for Security Studies:
29 January 2019

Recent attacks in Kenya suggest a trend of homegrown terrorists acting against their own country.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/home-grown-terror-a-worsening-threat-for-kenya

ODNI releases annual overview of Islamic State and al Qaeda networks
Thomas Joscelyn – Long War Journal: 29 January 2019

The U.S. Office of Director of National Intelligence released its annual “Worldwide Threat Assessment.” The report warns that both ISIS and al-Qa’ida remain a threat with a global footprint.

For more on this theme:

Al Qaeda’s advance in northern Syria threatens fragile truce

Have the Taliban really broken up with al-Qaeda and hitched up with the US?

Southeast Asia’s Vulnerability to Terrorism
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/southeast-asias-vulnerability-to-terrorism

Terrorism in Australia in 2019: more of the same?

From al-Shabaab to Boko Haram: We ignore African terror at our peril

Al Shabaab: A retake on the science of the DusitD2 attack
https://www.newtimes.co.rw/opinions/al-shabaab-retake-science-dusitd2-attack

‘Send Bitcoin’: Palestinian Islamist Group Hamas Begs for Crypto Donations Amid Crippling Sanctions

Hamas and Salafi Jihadi Groups
https://www.meforum.org/57677/hamas-salafi-jihadi-groups

Hezbollah’s Finances are Its Achilles’ Heel
https://nationalinterest.org/feature/hezbollahs-finances-are-its-achilles-heel-42462
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

The enduring appeal of violent jihad
Frank Gardner – BBC: 27 January 2019

ISIS' loss of its "caliphate" has left would-be jihadists without a home. But they are still drawn to the idea of violent jihad. Why?

How People Become Radicalized
Scott Atran – Scientific American: 28 January 2019

A neuroimaging study of how populations are radicalized shows that social marginalization and sacred values are key factors in the process.
https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/how-people-become-radicalized/#googDisableSync

For more on this theme:
Philippines vows to 'destroy' Islamist extremism. Here's why that won't be so easy

Deal Strictly With Elements Behind Radicalization Of Youth: DGP

Pak using social media for radicalization: DGP

Google algorithms and human psychology: How Jigsaw rescues teens from ISIS recruiters

3 things Garissa schools can do to help tackle radicalisation

Mourchidat: Female Islamic Clerics Lead a Quiet Revolution in Morocco

What Now For Prevent? Anti-Radicalisation Strategy Must Be Reformed Not Scrapped
https://www.fenews.co.uk/fevoices/15542-terror-in-the-uk

Nairobi must now tackle youth radicalisation to avert attacks
https://www.nation.co.ke/oped/opinion/Nairobi-must-now-tackle-youth-radicalisation-to-avert-attacks/440808-4954136-6ckh0d/index.html

Disaffected Sabah youth at risk of radicalization
https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/s/128626
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

France scrambles to move ISIS detainees out of Syria ahead of U.S. withdrawal
Mac William Bishop – NBC News: 29 January 2019

The French government has confirmed that it is preparing for French jihadists captured in northern Syria to return to France in the coming months, following the departure of U.S. troops from the region.


For more on this theme:

Putin Shows Rare Soft Spot to Rescue Russia’s ISIS Children

Syria: The festering threat of informal ISIS prisons
https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/syria-the-festering-threat-of-informal-isis-prisons-1.818009

New laws to target Irish terror fighters

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Commentary: The secret group dynamics that fuel horrifying terror attacks
Matthias Spitzmuller – Channel NewsAsia: 1 February 2019

Focusing on how terrorist teams work and how they make their decisions, rather than fixating on the individual motivations of terrorists, will help counterterrorism efforts, says Matthias Spitzmuller, an associate professor at Queen’s University in Canada.


For more on this theme:

Counterterrorism measure advances House
https://homelandprepnews.com/stories/32326-counterterrorism-measure-advances-house/

Counter Terrorism Today With Dr. Michael Barak
http://www.ict.org.il/Article/2324/Counter_Terrorism_Today_Dr_Michael_Barak#gsc.tab=0

China, India discuss cooperation in counter-terrorism
https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/china-india-discuss-cooperation-in-counterterrorism/1469294

Australia Needs a New National Security Strategy

4 Terrorism Questions for former NCTC Director Nicholas Rasmussen
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/4-terrorism-questions-for-former-nctc-director-nicholas-rasmussen