

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Inspired by Navalny, Russian bloggers stand up to corruption

Agence France-Presse: 2 February 2022

Armed with only a phone and selfie stick, blogger Igor Grishin has set himself the task of fighting corruption in his hometown beyond Moscow, following in the steps of imprisoned Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny.

<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/lifestyle/inspired-navalny-russian-bloggers-stand-corruption>

When Will Australia Confront Corruption?

Joshua Mcdonald – The Diplomat: 31 January 2022

Canberra can do more to protect Australia's democracy and weed out corruption.

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/01/when-will-australia-confront-corruption/>

For more on this theme:

Malawi president rejigs cabinet after corruption scandals

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/malawi-president-rejigs-cabinet-after-corruption-scandals-2022-01-27/>

China says will probe corrupt behaviour behind internet platform monopolies

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/china-says-will-probe-corrupt-behaviour-behind-internet-platform-monopolies-2022-01-21/>

The Biden Administration's Aggressive Policy Changes to Combat Corruption

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/biden-administrations-aggressive-policy-changes-combat-corruption>

Kazakhstan's protesters weren't happy about government corruption. Will anything change?

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/01/20/kazakhstans-protesters-werent-happy-about-government-corruption-will-anything-change/>

Vietnam's path forward on COVID-19 and corruption

<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2022/01/25/vietnams-path-forward-on-covid-19-and-corruption/>

Saudi anti-corruption authority pursues makers of fake Covid-19 vaccine certificates

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf-news/saudi-arabia/2022/01/20/saudi-anti-corruption-authority-pursues-makers-of-fake-covid-19-vaccine-certificates/>

South African president gets new report detailing corruption

<https://apnews.com/article/business-africa-south-africa-cyril-ramaphosa-jacob-zuma-e4456859691b88e47df1db5cad63b454>

US Inspector Questions Top Ghani Aide on Corruption, Collapse of Afghan Government

<https://www.voanews.com/a/us-inspector-questions-top-ghani-aide-on-corruption-collapse-of-afghan-government/6422070.html>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug trafficking surging in year since Myanmar coup

Panu Wongcha-um and Tom Allard – Reuters: 2 February 2022

Increased instability in Myanmar since a military coup a year ago has seen a surge in narcotics production there and trafficking into Southeast Asia and beyond, a senior official from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime told Reuters.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/drug-trafficking-surging-year-since-myanmar-coup-2022-02-01/>

Guinea-Bissau president: Failed coup may have been linked to drug trade

Alberto Dabo – Reuters: 1 February 2022

President Umaro Sissoco Embalo of Guinea-Bissau survived an attempted coup but said many members of the security forces were killed repelling an attack on democracy that may have been linked to drug trafficking.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/heavy-gunfire-heard-near-guinea-bissau-presidential-palace-2022-02-01/>

For more on this theme:

Can Arab rapprochement with Syria help contain the regime's narcostate?

<https://www.trtworld.com/opinion/can-arab-rapprochement-with-syria-help-contain-the-regime-s-narcostate-53827>

Liberia is steadily losing its youthful population to harmful substances, a call to national leaders

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/1133486/liberia-is-steadily-losing-its-youthful-population.html>

Austrian Report Highlights Spike in Drugs Flow From Balkans

<https://balkaninsight.com/2022/01/24/austrian-report-highlights-spike-in-drugs-flow-from-balkans/>

Drones, explosives, impunity: A Mexican drug cartel flexes its muscle in Michoacán

<https://english.elpais.com/usa/2022-01-17/drones-explosives-impunity-a-mexican-drug-cartel-flexes-its-muscle-in-michoacan.html>

Venezuela detains ruling party mayor over drug trafficking

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/venezuela-detains-ruling-party-mayor-over-drug-trafficking-2022-01-29/>

US Renews Efforts to Combat International Drug Trafficking

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/us-renews-efforts-to-combat-international-drug-trafficking/>

Officials Seized Nearly 20,000 Coconuts Filled With Liquid Cocaine

<https://www.newsweek.com/officials-seized-nearly-20000-coconuts-filled-liquid-cocaine-1673998>

Panama, Costa Rica: Major Waypoints For Cocaine to Europe

<https://insightcrime.org/news/panama-costa-rica-major-waypoints-cocaine-to-europe/>

Syrian drug smuggling prompts new Jordanian border policies

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-695002>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Illegal Gold Mining in Peruvian Amazon Turns Pristine Rainforests Into Heavily Polluted Mercury Sinks

Duke University – SciTechDaily: 28 January 2022

Scientists have found that the highest recorded levels of atmospheric mercury exist in an unlikely place – Peru’s Amazon rainforest. The study, published in Nature Communications, pointed to illegal gold mining as the cause.

<https://scitechdaily.com/illegal-gold-mining-in-peruvian-amazon-turns-pristine-rainforests-into-heavily-polluted-mercury-sinks/>

Cambodia: Illegal logging harming Indigenous peoples’ rights and cultures — new research

Amnesty International: 28 January 2022

Illegal logging of protected forests is undermining the human rights and erasing the traditions of Indigenous people in Cambodia, new research by Amnesty International revealed.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/01/cambodia-illegal-logging-harming-indigenous-peoples-rights-and-cultures-new-research/>

For more on this theme:

Gov’t introduces digitalized system to prevent illegal logging of trees

<https://www.businessghana.com/site/news/general/255099/Gov-t-introduces-digitalized-system-to-prevent-illegal-logging-of-trees>

Meet the Latin American activists who are risking their lives to protect nature

<https://www.lifegate.com/environmental-defenders-latin-america>

Brazil’s clearwater Tapajos river polluted by illegal gold mining

<https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/brazils-clearwater-tapajos-river-polluted-by-illegal-gold-mining-2022-01-24/>

China’s coastal cities competing for distant-water catch with generous subsidies

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/china-s-coastal-cities-competing-for-distant-water-catch-with-generous-subsidies>

Licensed fishing vessels unmasked as illegal Chinese fronts

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/Licensed-fishing-vessels-unmasked-as-illegal-Chinese-fronts-1451923>

Are Facebook, Snapchat and Tiktok the ‘new eBay’ for endangered wildlife?

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2022/01/30/are-facebook-snapchat-and-tiktok-the-new-ebay-for-endangered-cheetahs>

Fighting wildlife crime: a roadmap that works

<https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2502469045871/fighting-wildlife-crime-a-roadmap-that-works>

Balochistan govt to form special force to ensure preservation of forest, wildlife

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/879133/balochistan-govt-to-form-special-force-to-ensure-preservation-of-forest-wildlife/>

MONEY LAUNDERING AND ORGANIZED CRIME

Lime Crisis in Mexico as Cartels Target Farmers

Henry Shuldiner – InSight Crime: 28 January 2022

Lime farmers in Mexico have become the latest victims of cartel extortion, causing widespread crop disruption and skyrocketing prices.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/lime-crisis-mexico-cartels-target-farmers/>

Report: Illicit Economies Drive Armed Conflicts and Vice Versa

David Klein – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 2 February 2022

The overwhelming majority of countries that had the highest rates of criminality in 2021 were those in the midst of armed conflict, the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime found in a new study.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/15885-report-illicit-economies-drive-armed-conflicts-and-vice-versa>

For more on this theme:

Illicit Crime Cash ‘Flowing’ Through Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro – Report

<https://balkaninsight.com/2022/01/19/illicit-crime-cash-flowing-through-bosnia-serbia-montenegro-report/>

How The Mafia Is Moving Into Renewables And Other “Clean” Sectors

<https://worldcrunch.com/green/mafia-renewable-energy>

China launches 3-year anti-money laundering campaign

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/rates-bonds/china-launches-3-year-anti-money-laundering-campaign-2022-01-27/>

How Criminals Take Advantage of Venezuela’s Food Aid System

<https://insightcrime.org/news/criminals-take-advantage-venezuelas-food-aid-system/>

Crypto money laundering rises 30% in 2021: Report

<https://www.wionews.com/world/crypto-money-laundering-rises-30-in-2021-report-448221>

Whistleblower rewards law: fixing money laundering loopholes

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/whistleblower-rewards-law-fixing-money-laundering-loopholes-2022-01-28/>

Poland must improve regulatory framework and increase measures to tackle money laundering and terrorism financing

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/moneyval/-/poland-publication-of-the-5th-round-mutual-evaluation-report>

Proposed FinCEN Pilot Program on Sharing of Suspicious Activity Reports with Foreign Affiliates

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/proposed-fincen-pilot-program-sharing-suspicious-activity-reports-foreign-affiliates>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The EU and U.S. are starting to align on AI regulation

Alex Engler – Brookings: 1 February 2022

A range of regulatory changes and new hires by the U.S. administration signals its more proactive stance toward artificial intelligence regulation, which brings the U.S. closer to that of the European Union.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2022/02/01/the-eu-and-u-s-are-starting-to-align-on-ai-regulation/>

For more on this theme:

(China, Russia, U.S.) Russia and China's private internets are the ideal forts for cyberattacks

<https://thehill.com/opinion/cybersecurity/591601-russia-and-chinas-private-internets-are-the-ideal-forts-for?r=1>

(Global) Web3: Empty Buzzword Or The Next Evolution Of The Web?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/leeorshimron/2022/02/01/web3-empty-buzzword-or-the-next-evolution-of-the-web/?sh=2672c2869cef>

(Global) A better way to regulate the metaverse

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/A-better-way-to-regulate-the-metaverse>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Myanmar Junta Set to Pass Draconian Cyber Security Law

Sebastian Strangio – The Diplomat: 31 January 2022

A new Myanmar law would ban VPNs, which the population has used to circumvent state controls on social media networks such as Facebook.

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/01/myanmar-junta-set-to-pass-draconian-cyber-security-law/>

For more on this theme:

(China) China media freedom declining at 'breakneck speed': Report

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/31/china-media-freedom>

(Burkina Faso) Burkina Faso's blatant violation of press freedom

<https://ifex.org/burkina-fasos-blatant-violation-of-press-freedom/>

(Africa) Deluge of digital repression threatens African security

<https://www.defenceweb.co.za/cyber-defence/deluge-of-digital-repression-threatens-african-security/>

(Iran) Facebook is Failing Iranians, and Iran's Leaders Are About to Launch a Censored Internet

<https://broadbandbreakfast.com/2022/01/facebook-is-failing-iranians-and-irans-leaders-are-about-to-launch-a-censored-internet/>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Japan eyes tighter curbs to counter cyber attacks

Reuters: 3 February 2022

Japan will consider imposing tighter curbs on companies in security-sensitive sectors that procure overseas software to counter cyberattacks, according to a proposal by a key panel.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/tech/tech-news/japan-eyes-tighter-curbs-to-counter-cyber-attacks>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) How CISA can help bolster cyber defense of small businesses

<https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/technology/590516-how-cisa-can-help-bolster-cyber-defense-of-small-businesses?rl=1>

(Europe) EU to create pan-European cyber incident coordination framework

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/eu-to-create-pan-european-cyber-incident-coordination-framework/>

(Africa) Keeping the humanitarian sector in Africa safe from digital threats

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/keeping-the-humanitarian-sector-in-africa-safe-from-digital-threats>

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Cyberattacker hits German service station petrol terminal provider

Jude Karabus – The Register: 1 Feb 2022

Shell logistics supplier Oiltanking is operating with limited capacity, thanks to a cyberattack.

<https://www.theregister.com/2022/02/01/oiltrading/>

For more on this theme:

(North Korea) North Korea Loses Internet in Suspected Cyber-Attack

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/nkorea-suspected-cyber-attack/>

(Global) Cyber Attack on Red Cross Data Stings Family Reunification Push, Feds Say

<https://www.newsweek.com/cyber-attack-red-cross-data-stings-family-reunification-push-feds-say-1675658>

(Scotland) Full cost of 2020 cyber attack on Sepa still not known

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60219984>

(Nigeria) Fresh cyber attacks hit Nigeria

<https://dailytrust.com/fresh-cyber-attacks-hit-nigeria>

(China, Germany) Chinese APT 27 hackers targeting companies, says Germany

<https://www.dw.com/en/chinese-apt-27-hackers-targeting-companies-says-germany/a-60564091>

MASS SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

China's Orwellian digital surveillance turns to Olympic athletes

Dustin Carmack – The Seattle Times: 2 February 2022

Olympic athletes in Beijing are under the all-seeing eye of an extensive digital surveillance system. The Chinese Communist Party says it's to ensure their safety and to control the spread of COVID-19.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/chinas-orwellian-digital-surveillance-turns-to-olympic-athletes/>

For more on this theme:

(Russia, Ukraine) Researchers detail Russia-linked group's cyber-espionage tactics in Ukraine

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/gamaredon-symantec-ukraine-russia/>

(Russia, Germany) University Spy in Germany 'Passed Ariane Rocket Details to Russia'

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/01/27/university-spy-in-germany-passed-ariane-rocket-details-to-russia-a76170>

(Myanmar) A year after Myanmar coup, growing surveillance threatens lives

<https://news.trust.org/item/20220131095532-a8q70/>

(China) Beijing Winter Olympics stars robot chefs, surveillance app

<https://news.trust.org/item/20220131152327-12mq3>

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Cyberattacks on Critical Infrastructure as the New WMD

Ted P. Delacourt – Homeland Security Today: 1 February 2022

An attack on one critical infrastructure sector may initiate a failure in another or cascade to the entire interconnected network.

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/cyberattacks-on-critical-infrastructure-as-the-new-wmd/>

For more on this theme:

(Russia, Global) Cord-cutting, Russian style: Could the Kremlin sever global internet cables?

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/cord-cutting-russian-style-could-the-kremlin-sever-global-internet-cables/>

(U.S.) Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Expands Public-Private Cybersecurity Partnership to Water Sector

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/01/27/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-expands-public-private-cybersecurity-partnership-to-water-sector/>

(Global) Rising cyber exposure in maritime calls for urgent action

<https://www.ejinsight.com/eji/article/id/3027092/20220125-Rising-cyber-exposure-in-maritime-calls-for-urgent-action>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

ISIS, Thriving in Unstable Places, Proves It's Still a Threat

Ben Hubbard – The New York Times: 31 January 2022

ISIS no longer controls territory, but it has shown it can still pull off opportunistic military operations in Syria and Iraq.

<https://bdnews24.com/world/middle-east/2022/01/30/islamic-state-group-thriving-in-unstable-places-proves-its-still-a-threat>

ISIS Expansion with Affiliate in Mozambique Increases Terrorist Group's Threat

Mahmut Cengiz and Emma Sameth – Homeland Security Today: 29 January 2022

ISIS has more franchises than al-Qaida, and jihadist groups in Africa mostly prefer to be under the banner of ISIS.

<https://www.hstoday.us/featured/isis-expansion-with-affiliate-in-mozambique-increases-terrorist-groups-threat/>

For more on this theme:

German woman faces crimes against humanity charges after joining IS as a teen

<https://www.dw.com/en/german-woman-faces-crimes-against-humanity-charges-after-joining-is-as-a-teen/a-60543869>

How ISIS Is Violently Expanding Across Africa

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-isis-violently-expanding-across-africa-199940>

Summary of ISIS Activity around the Globe in 2021

<https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/summary-of-isis-activity-around-the-globe-in-2021/>

'Huge ISIS failure': Detainees in Syria moved to more secure facility after thwarted prison break

https://www.stripes.com/theaters/middle_east/2022-01-31/isis-failure-prison-break-syria-4473510.html

Attacks by the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq stoke concerns of a resurgence

<https://www.npr.org/2022/01/31/1076895984/attacks-by-the-islamic-state-in-syria-and-iraq-stoke-concerns-of-a-resurgence>

Islamic State hits back, aided by power vacuum in Iraq and Syria

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/islamic-state-hits-back-aided-by-power-vacuum-iraq-syria-2022-02-02/>

IS leader blows up self, family as US attacks Syria hideout

<https://apnews.com/article/biden-says-us-raid-syria-killed-islamic-state-group-leader-ca598136de014e008f746a35f6f721b0>

American Woman Accused of Prominent Role in Islamic State

<https://www.shafaq.com/en/World/American-Woman-Accused-of-Prominent-Role-in-Islamic-State>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Nonstate threats in the Taliban's Afghanistan

Joshua T. White – Brookings: 1 February 2022

While Afghanistan's new Taliban leadership has been preoccupied with forming a government, managing internal tensions, and pursuing foreign recognition and funding to stave off an economic collapse, nonstate armed actors have begun to assess the opportunities and limitations that come with a return to Taliban rule.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/02/01/nonstate-threats-in-the-talibans-afghanistan/>

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 record level 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:

Afghan women taken from their homes after speaking out

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-60091003>

US sanctions 'international' Hezbollah financing network

<https://thehill.com/policy/international/middle-east-north-africa/590837-us-sanctions-international-hezbollah-financing?rl=1>

Al Shabaab surges bombings amid Somali political crisis

<https://www.criticalthreats.org/briefs/africa-file/africa-file-al-shabaab-surges-bombings-amid-somali-political-crisis>

Links between terrorism and the ivory trade overblown, study says

<https://news.mongabay.com/2022/02/links-between-terrorism-and-the-ivory-trade-overblown-study-says/>

Forgotten conflict: A week in a city under siege by Boko Haram

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/africa/forgotten-conflict-a-week-in-a-city-under-siege-by-boko-haram-1.4787233>

Over 90% of repentant Boko Haram members are genuine- Zulum

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/02/over-90-of-repentant-boko-haram-members-re-genuine-zulum/>

With US Away, China Gets Friendly with Afghanistan's Taliban

<https://www.voanews.com/a/with-us-away-china-gets-friendly-with-afghanistan-s-taliban/6422284.html>

Pakistan's Hard-Line Islamists Emboldened By Afghan Taliban's Victory

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/pakistan-hard-line-islamists-taliban-victory/31680060.html>

U.N. report says Taliban have killed scores of former Afghan officials, others

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/un-report-says-taliban-killed-have-killed-scores-former-afghan-officials-others-2022-01-30/>

RADICALIZATION

Germany: Telegram becoming a ‘medium for radicalization’

The Associated Press: 26 January 2022

A top German security official said his agency has created a task force to investigate people suspected of using Telegram to commit crimes amid growing concerns that the messaging app is becoming a “medium for radicalization.”

<https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-technology-health-business-germany-35249e78c-65b9010a5bc67e9ec1e06b8>

For more on this theme:

Community first responders lauded, network expanded to deter radicalisation and spread of fake news

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/community-first-responders-lauded-network-expanded-to-deter-radicalisation-and-spread-of-fake-news>

Assessing Misogyny as a ‘Gateway Drug’ into Violent Extremism

<https://gnet-research.org/2022/01/24/assessing-misogyny-as-a-gateway-drug-into-violent-extremism/>

What We Know About Radicalization

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/evidence-based-living/202201/what-we-know-about-radicalization>

WATCH: Homeland Security hearing on role of digital media on radicalization and extremism

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/watch-live-homeland-security-hearing-on-role-of-digital-media-on-radicalization-and-extremism>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

Russia could cyberattack Ukraine — again — and disrupt the entire world

Jenna McLaughlin – NPR: 29 January 2022

Security analysts are concerned that Russia could launch cyberattacks against Ukraine, as it did in 2017. That could compromise government agencies, banks and energy infrastructure.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/01/29/1076663927/russia-could-cyberattack-ukraine-again-and-disrupt-the-entire-world>

For more on this theme:

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

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

Beijing Winter Olympics athletes have every reason to worry about their cybersecurity

<https://tribunecontentagency.com/article/beijing-winter-olympics-athletes-have-every-reason-to-worry-about-their-cybersecurity/>

Brace for Russian cyber attacks as Ukraine crisis deepens, Britain says

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/brace-russian-cyber-attacks-over-ukraine-britain-says-2022-01-28/>

US officials prepare for potential Russian cyberattacks as Ukraine standoff continues

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/02/politics/fbi-ukraine-cyber-russia/index.html>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE – CHINA

UK Intelligence Agency Targets China's United Front

Duncan Bartlett – The Diplomat: 22 January 2022

Spymasters in the United Kingdom and other countries are going public in their push against Chinese Communist Party influence.

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/01/uk-intelligence-agency-targets-chinas-united-front/>

For more on this theme:

Inside the secretive training that US Green Berets give to troops who may have to take on Russia or China

<https://www.businessinsider.com/foreign-internal-defense-us-troops-train-partners-to-fight-ri-vals-2022-1>

U.S. carriers in South China Sea, Taiwan reports further Chinese incursion

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/two-us-carriers-enter-schina-sea-counter-malign-influence-2022-01-24/>

Outlook: China's Influence and Xi Jinping's Leadership in 2022

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/01/outlook-chinas-influence-and-xi-jinpings-leadership-in-2022/>

'Miserable and Dangerous': A Failed Chinese Promise in Serbia

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/22/world/europe/china-serbia-vietnamese-workers.html>

Why China's Global Image Is Getting Worse

<https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/why-chinas-global-image-getting-worse>

Dutch university scandal taps into fears of Chinese influence peddling

<https://www.politico.eu/article/dutch-university-amsterdam-scandal-taps-china-influence/>

China adopted 'three-warfare' strategy aiming to expand global influence: French MoD think tank

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-adopted-three-warfare-strategy-aiming-to-expand-global-influence-french-mod-think-tank/articleshow/89036388.cms>

Japanese aid to Tonga aimed at countering China's influence

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1545585/japanese-aid-to-tonga-aimed-at-countering-chinas-influence>

China's expanding influence in the Pacific

<https://asiatimes.com/2022/01/chinas-expanding-influence-in-the-pacific/>

'China's Media Warfare seeks global totalitarian thought control'

<https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/news/chinas-media-warfare-seeks-global-totalitarian-thought-control>

The concerns about China trying to buy influence in Canada and the calls to officially track it

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1996359235585>

Three Ways China is Growing its Media Influence in Indonesia

<https://www.indrastra.com/2022/01/Chinese-Media-Influence-in-Indonesia.html>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE – RUSSIA

Nonlinear Warfare: Is Russia Waging a Silent War in Latin America?

Guido L. Torres – Small Wars Journal: 24 January 2022

While the U.S. and NATO support Ukraine and many Eastern European countries in the region, Russia is obliged to look for counterbalances in areas where it feels it can compete effectively. Latin America is one of those regions where Russia has profound historical partnerships, such as Cuba, while growing ones where they can stage and compete with the United States.

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/nonlinear-warfare-russia-waging-silent-war-latin-america>

For more on this theme:

US sanctions Ukraine officials over Russian influence

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/01/20/us-sanctions-ukraine-officials-over-russian-influence/>

Russia's leaders use state media as a political weapon

<https://ge.usembassy.gov/russias-leaders-use-state-media-as-a-political-weapon/>

US tries to name and shame Russian disinformation on Ukraine

<https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-europe-russia-media-vladimir-putin-ecba20c81181c028b-06109cf8620426a>

Germany slaps broadcast ban on RT's German-language service

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/germany-slaps-broadcast-ban-on-rts-german-language-service/>

Russia's Top Five Persistent Disinformation Narratives

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/intelligence/russias-top-five-persistent-disinformation-narratives/>

The future of Russia-Africa relations

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2022/02/02/the-future-of-russia-africa-relations/>

Russia is seeking to expand its power not just in Ukraine but in Georgia, Belarus, and the EU's borders too

<https://inews.co.uk/news/world/russia-seeking-expand-power-ukraine-georgia-belarus-eu-border-caucasus-1436116>

IntelBrief: Burkina Faso Coup Destabilizes Country and Opens Door to Foreign Influence

<https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2022-february-1/>

Putin's sway over Belarus president could influence Kremlin's calculus on Ukraine

<https://www.stripes.com/theaters/europe/2022-02-02/belarus-beholden-putin-could-influence-kremlin-ukraine-calculus-4542627.html>

Russia could unleash disruptive cyberattacks against the US – but efforts to sow confusion and division are more likely

<https://theconversation.com/russia-could-unleash-disruptive-cyberattacks-against-the-us-but-efforts-to-sow-confusion-and-division-are-more-likely-175471>