15 FEBRUARY 2022

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly

A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

The Marshall Center Transnational Weekly is a current awareness, information and policy tool for Marshall Center stakeholders to inform them about online publications by think tanks, research institutes and other organizations that deal with transnational subjects. Use of these brief excerpts and links does not reflect the views of or endorsement by the Marshall Center, the U.S. government or the German government. All original content in these compilations is copyrighted unless specifically noted otherwise. All rights to copyrighted items are reserved.

CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

Corruption
Drug Trafficking
Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources
Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

Internet Governance
Internet Freedom
Cyber Privacy and Security
Cybercrime
Cyberattacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
Critical Infrastructure Protection

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS and Foreign Fighters
Terrorism Around the World
Radicalization
Irregular Warfare: Cyber
Irregular Warfare: Information Operations and Malign Influence - China
Irregular Warfare: Information Operations and Malign Influence - Russia

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

In one nation's battle with corruption, more than an ounce of prevention
The Christian Science Monitor: 3 February 2022

Indonesia's frustration with corruption has led the government to focus more on reinforcing virtues such as honesty and accountability than on trying to capture and punish corrupt actors. One result: Its ranking on a corruption index improved last year.

https://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2022/0203/In-one-nation-s-battle-with-corruption-more-than-an-ounce-of-prevention

Interview With Dashdavaa Zandraa, Mongolia's Anti-Corruption Chief
Bolor Lkhaajav – The Diplomat: 4 February 2022

"Fighting corruption is more about eliminating the conditions that create corruption than about corrupt officials," says the director-general of Mongolia's Independent Authority Against Corruption.

https://thediplomat.com/2022/02/interview-with-dashdavaa-zandraa-mongolias-anti-corruption-chief/

For more on this theme:

Former top Chinese anti-graft inspector gets suspended death sentence for corruption

https://www.scmp.com/news/18th-party-congress/article/3165203/former-top-chinese-anti-graft-inspector-given-suspended

Jail Term for Former Liberian Defense Minister Offers Ray of Hope to Anti-Corruption Forces in Africa

https://www.cfr.org/blog/jail-term-former-liberian-defense-minister-offers-ray-hope-anti-corruption-forces-africa

Honduras: Poor, violent and corrupt

https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220127-honduras-poor-violent-and-corrupt

Report: Demand for Rosewood Fosters Corruption Across West Africa

https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/15887-report-demand-for-rosewood-fosters-corruption-across-west-africa

Corruption in Tajikistan is 'systemic'

https://www.asianews.it/news-en/Corruption-in-Tajikistan-is-%27systemic%27-55015.html

UN envoy proposes freezing assets of Afghanistan's corrupt ex-officials

https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/un-envoy-proposes-freezing-assets-of-afghanistans-corrupt-ex-officials20220129161741/

US, Nigerian religious leaders partner to fight corruption

https://dailypost.ng/2022/01/30/us-nigerian-religious-leaders-partner-to-fight-corruption/

US Reveals Former Honduras President's Place on Central America Corruption List

https://insightcrime.org/news/us-honduras-former-president-corruption-list/

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Liquid Cocaine - a Rising Trend Among Colombia's Traffickers

Maria Fernanda Ramirez – InSight Crime: 9 February 2022

As Colombian traffickers and police continually try to outfox each other, liquid cocaine has returned as an increasingly popular method for smuggling drugs.

https://insightcrime.org/news/liquid-cocaine-rising-trend-colombia-traffickers/

Colombia launches new strategy to tackle drug trade

Luis Jaime Acosta – Reuters: 3 February 2022

Colombia has launched a new strategy to fight drug trafficking, aiming to control cyberspace to tackle criminal groups involved in the cocaine trade, as well as block their financial transactions, Defense Minister Diego Molano said.

https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-02-03/colombia-launches-new-strategy-to-tackle-drug-trade

For more on this theme:

Montenegro Port Tightens Rules to Curb Drug Smuggling

https://balkaninsight.com/2022/01/31/montenegro-port-tightens-rules-to-curb-drug-smuggling/

Synthetic Drugs are Different, Our Response Must be Too

https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/synthetic-drugs-are-different-our-response-must-be-too

A New Drug That Contains Meth and Heroin Is on the Rise in Afghanistan

https://www.vice.com/en/article/dyp4gk/meth-heroin-pill-afghanistan

Narcotrafficking in Brazil Speeds Up Amazon Rainforest Destruction and Increases Violence

https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/narcotrafficking-in-brazil-speeds-up-amazon-rainforest-destruction-and-increases-violence/

Are Arrests of Venezuela Officials Simply For Show?

https://insightcrime.org/news/pot-calling-kettle-black-venezuelas-new-anti-corruption-campaign/

Government commission: Synthetic drug trafficking a 'national security' emergency

https://www.politico.com/news/2022/02/08/synthetic-drug-trafficking-opioids-00006517

'Laced cocaine' tragedy exposes reality of post-pandemic drug trade in Argentina

https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/laced-cocaine-tragedy-exposes-reality-of-post-pandemic-drug-trade-in-argentina.phtml

Bolivia Anti-Drug Chief Target of Both Bolivia and United States

https://insightcrime.org/news/former-anti-drug-chief-justice-bolivia-united-states/

Anti-drug judge shot dead in southern Iraq

https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/06022022

Guinea-Bissau: Are drug cartels behind the attempted coup?

https://www.dw.com/en/guinea-bissau-drug-cartels-behind-attempted-coup/a-60651513

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Despite crackdown, 'demand keeps China' on wildlife smuggling map

Holly Chik – The Star: 4 February 2022

China will continue to be a major destination for the illegal wildlife trade because of the demand for such products, particularly for traditional Chinese medicine, according to The Hague-based Wildlife Justice Commission.

https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2022/02/04/despite-crackdown-demand-keeps-china-on-wildlife-smuggling-map

For more on this theme:

Mexican town protects forest from avocado growers and cartels

https://apnews.com/article/business-world-news-mountains-mexico-caribbean-32a4508534bffb00cf-341119de733d5d

Vietnam's timber legality program not making a dent in risky wood imports

https://news.mongabay.com/2022/02/vietnams-timber-legality-program-not-making-a-dent-in-risky-wood-imports/

As China replants its own forests, it is destroying the world's

https://hongkongfp.com/2022/01/30/as-china-replants-its-own-forests-it-is-destroying-the-worlds/

Maritime conflict heats up as China's fishing fleet goes dark in Argentine waters

https://www.courthousenews.com/maritime-conflict-heats-up-as-chinas-fishing-fleet-goes-dark-in-argentine-waters/

An Indo-Pacific test case: Tackling illegal fishing with counternarcotics tactics

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/02/01/an-indo-pacific-test-case-tackling-illegal-fishing-with-counternarcotics-tactics/

Illegal overfishing by Chinese trawlers leaves Sierra Leone locals 'starving'

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/01/sierra-leone-families-starving-chinese-trawlers-industrial-overfishing-destroying-lives

Poachers target SA's private game reserves

https://www.news24.com/witness/news/kzn/poachers-target-sa-private-game-reserves-20220209

Demand for sea cucumbers turns India-Sri Lanka waters into trafficking hotspot

https://news.mongabay.com/2022/02/demand-for-sea-cucumbers-turns-india-sri-lanka-waters-into-trafficking-hotspot/

In Colombia, Escobar's hippos spawn another problem: Wildlife trafficking

https://news.mongabay.com/2022/02/in-colombia-escobars-hippos-spawn-another-problem-wildlife-trafficking/

Preventing the next pandemic is vastly cheaper than reacting to it: Study

https://news.mongabay.com/2022/02/preventing-the-next-pandemic-is-vastly-cheaper-than-reacting-to-it-study/

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Cryptocurrencies Facilitate an Already Murky Human Trafficking Problem

Alexandra Kelley – Nextgov: 9 February 2022

A U.S. House committee hearing highlighted the problematic combination of virtual currencies and a lack of data surrounding human trafficking in the U.S.

https://www.nextgov.com/emerging-tech/2022/02/cryptocurrencies-facilitate-already-murky-human-trafficking-problem/361751/

Full report:

Human and Drug Trafficking: Actions Needed to Address Gaps in Federal Data to Counter Illicit Activities

https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-105707

For more on this theme:

How IT can help fight human trafficking

https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/how-it-can-help-fight-human-trafficking/472854

InfraGard National Members Alliance and NEC Corporation of America Join Forces in the Fight Against Human Trafficking

https://www.hstoday.us/industry/industry-news/infragard-national-members-alliance-and-nec-corporation-of-america-join-forces-in-the-fight-against-human-trafficking/

Homeland Security eyes robot dogs to patrol the southern border

https://techcrunch.com/2022/02/02/homeland-security-eyes-robot-dogs-to-patrol-the-southern-border/

Frontex Launches New Operation at EU Land Borders

https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/border-security/frontex-launches-new-operation-at-eu-land-borders/

Powerful Guatemalan Family Busted for Smuggling Migrants Who Ended Up Dead

https://www.vice.com/en/article/v7dz93/powerful-guatemalan-family-busted-for-smuggling-migrants-who-ended-up-dead

Morocco: Mining tunnels along Algeria border used for irregular migration

https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220201-morocco-mining-tunnels-along-algeria-border-used-for-irregular-migration/

Raid against Sumatran official uncovers use of slave labor on oil palm farm

https://news.mongabay.com/2022/01/raid-against-sumatran-official-uncovers-use-of-slave-labor-on-oil-palm-farm/

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

About Those Facebook Ads Calling for More Internet Regulation
Will Duffield – National Review: 7 February 2022

Social-media giant Facebook is making a case for some rather self-serving new rules.

https://www.nationalreview.com/2022/02/about-those-facebook-ads-calling-for-more-internet-regulation/#slide-1

For more on this theme:

(Global) Metaverse security: How to learn from Internet 2.0 mistakes and build safe virtual worlds

https://www.techrepublic.com/article/metaverse-security-learn-lessons-from-internet-2-0-mistakes-to-build-safe-virtual-worlds/

(Global) 14 experts say how the net's worst problems could be solved by 2035

https://www.fastcompany.com/90719486/14-experts-say-how-the-nets-worst-problems-could-be-solved-by-2035

(Global) What is Web 3 and why will it affect the way everyone interacts on the internet?

https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/lifestyle/money/web-3-next-generation-internet-26161096

INTERNET FREEDOM

Peng Shuai Tells the West She Is Safe. But Her Name Is Still Censored for Chinese People.
Viola Zhou and Alan Wong – VICE: 7 February 2022

Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai's denial of her previous sexual assault allegation is nowhere to be found on the Chinese internet.

https://www.vice.com/en/article/4awqap/peng-shuai-beijing-winter-olympics

For more on this theme:

(Kazakhstan) How Kazakhstan's control of information can turn into a regime weakness

https://www.openglobalrights.org/how-kazakhstans-control-of-information-can-turn-into-a-regime-weakness/

(Russia) Content Moderation Case Study: Russia Slows Down Access To Twitter As New Form Of Censorship (2021)

https://www.techdirt.com/articles/20220209/15391748443/content-moderation-case-study-russia-slows-down-access-to-twitter-as-new-form-censorship-2021.shtml

(Global) Watchdog group pushes Google, YouTube parent company for government censorship requests

https://www.foxbusiness.com/technology/watchdog-google-youtube-parent-company-government-censorship-requests

CYBER PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Reviewing the UK's New Cybersecurity Strategy

James Coker – Infosecurity Magazine: 2 February 2022

The United Kingdom has launched its first cybersecurity strategy. It focuses on enhancing the security of the nation's public services to reduce the risk of shutdown by hostile actors.

https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news-features/reviewing-uk-new-cyber-strategy/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Tired: Breaking Up Big Tech. WIRED: Opening it Up

https://www.wired.co.uk/article/big-tech-open-data

(Europe) The EU is on the Cusp of Banning Personalized Ads, While Campaigners Deliberately Ignore the Costs to European Businesses

https://datainnovation.org/2022/02/the-eu-is-on-the-cusp-of-banning-personalized-ads-while-campaigners-deliberately-ignore-the-costs-to-european-businesses/

(U.S.) Building the Cybersecurity Workforce America Needs

https://www.nextgov.com/ideas/2022/02/building-cybersecurity-workforce-america-needs/361514/

CYBERCRIME

Opening Forensic Labs, Training Sleuths, Hiring Consultants: Centre Reboots India's Cybercrime Fight

News 9 :18 February 2022

While India is rapidly going digital in most spheres and the number of internet users is soaring, cyberthreats are also growing. To combat the situation, the Ministry of Home Affairs is strengthening a mechanism to deal decisively with virtual crimes.

https://www.news18.com/news/india/opening-forensic-labs-training-sleuths-hiring-consultants-centre-reboots-indias-cybercrime-fight-4751354.html

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Philippines) Improved cybercrime policies seen from BAP, DOJ pact

https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1167064

(U.S.) How ransomware attacks on 23 Texas sites changed the way cyber criminals operate

https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/how-ransomeware-attacks-on-23-texas-sites-changed-the-way-cyber-criminals-operate/

(India) Timely reporting helps cops solve three cyber crimes

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysuru/timely-reporting-helps-cops-solve-three-cyber-crimes/articleshow/89375222.cms

(Global) Out-of-Control Cybercrime Will Cause More Real-World Harm

https://www.wired.com/story/cyber-criminals-physical-harm/

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

News Corp cyber-attack: firm says it believes hack linked to China

Jim Waterson – The Guardian: 4 February 2022

Hacking of emails at a Rupert Murdoch company raises fears for the safety of journalists' confidential sources.

https://www.theguardian.com/media/2022/feb/04/new-corp-hack-murdoch-media-firm-believes-hackers-links-china

For more on this theme:

(U.K.) UK foreign ministry suffered serious cyber attack earlier this year – documents

https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-foreign-ministry-suffered-serious-cyber-attack-earlier-this-year-documents-2022-02-08/

(U.K.) KP Snacks Hit by Cyber-Attack

https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/kp-snacks-under-cyberattack/

(Portugal) Vodafone Portugal hit by hackers, says no client data breach

https://www.reuters.com/technology/vodafone-portugal-hit-by-hackers-says-no-client-data-breach-2022-02-08/

(Russia, Ukraine) Russian APT Primitive Bear attacks Western government department in Ukraine through job hunt

https://www.zdnet.com/article/russian-apt-primitive-bear-attacks-western-govt-department-in-ukraine/

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Cyber attacks on European oil facilities spreading

Alex Scroxton – Computer Weekly: 4 February 2022

Following a cyberattack on distribution facilities in Germany, more incidents have been reported in Belgium and the Netherlands, but it is too early to necessarily draw a link between them.

https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252512974/Cyber-attacks-on-European-oil-facilities-spreading

For more on this theme:

(Global) 80% of Critical Infrastructure Organizations Experienced Ransomware Attacks Last Year

https://www.automation.com/en-us/articles/february-2022/critical-infrastructure-organizations-ransomware

(U.S.) FBI: Ransomware Attackers Have Code to Halt Critical Infrastructure

https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2022/02/fbi-ransomware-attackers-have-code-halt-critical-infrastructure/361808/

(U.S.) UTSA's New Cyber Center to Defend Critical Infrastructure

https://www.govtech.com/education/higher-ed/utsas-new-cyber-center-to-defend-critical-infrastructure

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Violence Erupts at Syrian Camp for ISIS Families, Leaving a Child Dead
Jane Arraf – The New York Times: 10 February 2022

The violence at Al Hol erupted at a time of escalating tensions in this region between the area's dominant military power, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, and resurgent Islamic State group militants.

https://indianexpress.com/article/world/syria-al-hol-camp-violence-isis-7765388/

Killing of Islamic State Leader Signals Why U.S. Presence in Mideast Will Continue
Max Boot – Council on Foreign Relations: 3 February 2022

The death of Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi is unlikely to pose a major setback for the Islamic State group, which has mounted serious attacks in Iraq and Syria this year.

https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/killing-islamic-state-leader-signals-why-us-presence-mideast-will-continue

For more on this theme:

Uganda, Congo Intensify Fight Against Islamic State-Linked Group

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-31/uganda-congo-intensify-fight-against-islamic-state-linked-group

Revealed: how fake passports allow IS members to enter Europe and US

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/31/revealed-how-fake-passports-allow-is-members-to-enter-europe-and-us

Afghanistan Tops 2021 Global Survey of Islamic State Casualties

https://www.voanews.com/a/afghanistan-tops-2021-global-survey-of-islamic-state-casualties-/6415735.html

Attacks raise fears of Islamic State resurgence in Sinai

https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/02/attacks-raise-fears-islamic-state-resurgence-sinai

U.S. Offers $10M Reward for Information on ISIS-K Leader Sanaullah Ghafari

https://www.newsweek.com/us-offers-10m-reward-information-isis-k-leader-sanaullah-ghafari-1676996

Adm. Stavridis: 'Inevitable' new ISIS leaders will emerge

https://www.msnbc.com/mtp-daily/watch/adm-stavridis-inevitable-new-isis-leaders-will-emerge-132373573862

Factbox: Pushed into the shadows, Islamic State still has global reach

https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/pushed-into-shadows-islamic-state-still-has-global-reach-2022-02-04/

Islamic State likely to pick battle-hardened Iraqi as next leader - officials, analysts

https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/islamic-state-likely-pick-battle-hardened-iraqi-next-leader-officials-analysts-2022-02-09/

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Is the Taliban's Campaign Against the Islamic State Working?

Franz J. Marty – The Diplomat: 10 February 2022

The Taliban claim to have defeated the self-declared Islamic State group's Afghan chapter, but exclusive information obtained by The Diplomat online magazine indicates that its success is not what it seems.

https://thediplomat.com/2022/02/is-the-talibans-campaign-against-the-islamic-state-working/

Al Qaeda, Islamic State reconstituting in Afghanistan: US official

Indo-Asian News Service: 10 February 2022

A top U.S. official has claimed that the al-Qaida and Islamic State terror groups are "reconstituting" in Afghanistan.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/al-qaeda-islamic-state-reconstituting-in-afghanistan-us-official-122021000260_1.html

For more on this theme:

Lebanon will not 'hand over' Hezbollah weapons: Foreign minister

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/29/lebanon-will-not-hand-over-hezbollah-weapons-foreign-minister

How al-Shabaab uses clan conflicts in Mandera to advance their mission

https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2022-02-01-how-al-shabaab-uses-clan-conflicts-in-mandera-to-advance-their-mission/

UN report indicates al-Qaeda and ISIS enjoy safe haven in Turkish-controlled Idlib

https://nordicmonitor.com/2022/02/the-un-report-indicates-al-qaeda-and-isis-enjoys-safe-haven-in-turkish-controlled-idlib/

Al-Qaeda still present in Afghanistan, Indians among its recruits, says UNSC report

https://theprint.in/world/al-qaeda-still-present-in-afghanistan-indians-among-its-recruits-says-unsc-report/824666/

After Qurayshi's death, who are Mideast's most wanted terrorists?

https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/02/after-qurayshis-death-who-are-mideasts-most-wanted-terrorists

Al-Shabaab and the Education Crisis in Northern Kenya

https://www.theelephant.info/features/2022/02/04/al-shabaab-and-the-education-crisis-in-northern-kenya/

Trajectories of Violence Against Civilians by Africa's Militant Islamist Groups

https://africacenter.org/spotlight/trajectories-of-violence-against-civilians-by-africas-militant-islamist-groups/

Poor governance to blame for violent extremism in Africa: AFRICOM chief

https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2022/02/poor-governance-to-blame-for-violent-extremism-in-africa-africom-chief/

RADICALIZATION

As Economy Collapses, Some Young Lebanese Turn to Militancy

Bassem Mroue and Fay Abuelgasim – The Associated Press: 4 February 2022

As Lebanon slid deeper into economic misery over recent months, dozens of young men have disappeared from the country's marginalized north and later surfaced in Iraq, where they are believed to have joined the Islamic State group. The migration has stoked fears of a new wave of radical recruitment, taking advantage of frustration and despair fueled by the economic meltdown and sectarian tensions.

https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-business-middle-east-lebanon-economy-d5b696be655ae-18be7ceedac4b72360e

For more on this theme:

Challenge of Recidivism to Counter-Radicalisation Programmes

https://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/recidivism-counter-radicalisation-programmes-sakidwai-280122

UN: Build on Islamic State Chief's Death to Thwart Recruits

https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2022-02-09/un-build-on-islamic-state-chiefs-death-to-thwart-recruits

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

Russian ransomware attacks increased during 2021, joint review finds

Dan Sabbagh – The Guardian: 9 February 2022

Britain, the U.S. and Australia point to growth in "sophisticated, high-impact ransomware incidents."

https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/feb/09/russian-ransomware-attacks-increased-during-2021-joint-review-finds

For more on this theme:

A Brief Look at Chinese Cyberwarfare

https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/brief-look-chinese-cyberwarfare

Russian Threat Actors Targeting Infrastructure

https://securityboulevard.com/2022/02/russian-threat-actors-targeting-infrastructure/

Russia has been at war with Ukraine for years – in cyberspace

https://theconversation.com/russia-has-been-at-war-with-ukraine-for-years-in-cyberspace-176221

With Russian hackers in mind, NATO takes hard look at cyber strategy

https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2022/0202/With-Russian-hackers-in-mind-NATO-takes-hard-look-at-cyber-strategy

Inside Trickbot, Russia's Notorious Ransomware Gang

https://www.wired.co.uk/article/trickbot-malware-group-internal-messages

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE — CHINA

Boosting maritime law enforcement in Southeast Asia and the South China Sea

Michael Heazle – The Strategest: 4 February 2022

Five and a half years after the international arbitral tribunal's rejection of China's expansive South China Sea claims in July 2016, the international maritime order in East Asia clearly is in trouble. China's grey-zone tactics are continuing apace.

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/boosting-maritime-law-enforcement-in-southeast-asia-and-the-south-china-sea/

For more on this theme:

Coercion with Chinese characteristics: How Europe should respond to interference in its internal trade

https://ecfr.eu/article/coercion-with-chinese-characteristics-how-europe-should-respond-to-interference-in-its-internal-trade/

China's rising influence in the Balkans

https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/balkans-china/

China's Financial Diplomacy Wins Influence in Central Asian Countries

https://www.voanews.com/a/china-s-financial-diplomacy-wins-influence-in-central-asian-countries/6416255.html

CCP's use of overseas Chinese to influence western democracies

https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/ccps-use-of-overseas-chinese-to-influence-western-democracies/

IOC's Bach 'being used' to convey CCP's propaganda message over Peng Shuai: analysts

https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/used-01272022132209.html

China's Digital Silk Road and Africa's Technological Future

https://www.cfr.org/blog/chinas-digital-silk-road-and-africas-technological-future

Modi Hosts Summit With Central Asian Leaders As India, China Compete For Regional Influence

https://www.rferl.org/a/modi-central-asia-summit-india/31674773.html

Why the US Must Take China's Disinformation Operations Seriously

https://thediplomat.com/2022/01/why-the-us-must-take-chinas-disinformation-operations-seriously/

Understanding China's Growing Military Outreach in Central Asia

https://www.idsa.in/issuebrief/understanding-chinas-growing-military-outreach-dkumar-030222

China Closely Watching Western Handling Of Ukrainian-Russian Tensions

https://www.rferl.org/a/china-russia-ukraine-crisis-standish/31678140.html

China's 'Belt and Road' Risk in Syria May Reap Big Rewards

https://www.voanews.com/a/china-s-belt-and-road-risk-in-syria-may-reap-big-rewards-/6415768.html

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE — RUSSIA

Russia's Wagner Group in Africa: Influence, commercial concessions, rights violations, and counterinsurgency failure

Federica Saini Fasanotti – Brookings: 8 February 2022

Russia is intensifying its competition with the United States in Africa. In Russia's asymmetric race, it uses state-linked actors such as the private security company the Wagner Group and the infamous St. Petersburg "troll farm" the Internet Research Agency. Both are a major threat to democracy and rule of law in Africa and beyond.

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/02/08/russias-wagner-group-in-africa-influence-commercial-concessions-rights-violations-and-counterinsurgency-failure/

For more on this theme:

Russia Is Teaching a Master Class in 'Decision-Centric' Warfare

https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2022/01/russia-teaching-master-class-decision-centric-warfare/361310/

Global Strategy 2022: Thwarting Kremlin aggression today for constructive relations tomorrow

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/content-series/atlantic-council-strategy-paper-series/thwarting-kremlin-aggression-today-for-constructive-relations-tomorrow/

Xi Jinping and the CCP's expanding technology agenda

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/xi-jinping-and-the-ccps-expanding-technology-agenda/

China, Russia partner up against West at Olympics summit

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-china-tell-nato-stop-expansion-moscow-backs-beijing-taiwan-2022-02-04/

Bill aims to arrest China, Russia influence in Latin America

https://apnews.com/article/europe-russia-china-arrests-florida-bac8627f64045a307ac87757bc1616a5

U.S. warns Russia may stage video as pretext to invade Ukraine

https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/nato-concerned-by-russian-exercises-belarus-moscow-criticises-us-2022-02-03/

How a Russian-Led Alliance Keeps a Lid on Central Asia

https://warontherocks.com/2022/02/how-a-russian-led-alliance-keeps-a-lid-on-central-asia/

Ukraine: Russia Mobilises Disinfo Alongside Military

https://iwpr.net/global-voices/ukraine-russia-mobilises-disinfo-alongside-military

False-Flag Invasions Are a Russian Specialty

https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/02/04/false-flag-invasions-are-a-russian-specialty/

Russian 'soft influence' in Serbia fuels media war against Ukraine

https://www.intellinews.com/russian-soft-influence-in-serbia-fuels-media-war-against-ukraine-234140/