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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

4 Years After the Revolution, Ukraine Still Battles Corruption and Russian Aggression
Nolan Peterson – The Daily Signal: 28 February 2018
After a bloody, yet ultimately successful revolution, Ukraine still has many of its battle scars and a long, uphill road toward fixing the issues its citizens rallied against four years ago.

The crown prince of Saudi Arabia is giving his country shock therapy
David Ignatius – The Washington Post: 27 February 2018
Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman detained princes, businessmen and top officials in his quest to rid the kingdom of rampant corruption. According to the government, $100 billion has been paid back in financial settlements, all of which comes at a time when the Saudi budget was strained due to low crude oil prices.

For more on this theme:

Greece: anti-corruption group offers praise and criticism

Anti-corruption agencies and the bark or bite conundrum

The mysterious fortune of Qatar’s anti-corruption chief

China’s President Xi beefs up his anti-corruption crackdown

Corruption is the price we pay for democracy
https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/corruption-is-the-price-we-pay-for-democracy,11245

Negotiating the transition from corruption to integrity: two steps forward, one step back

The NCAA, The FBI And Corruption In College Basketball
http://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2018/02/28/ncaa-investigation-fbi

Roads to corruption
http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/roads-to-corruption/article22859892.ece
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Inside the drug capital of Spain – and the ‘gateway’ for illicit substances entering the EU
Alasdair Fotheringham – The Independent: 26 February 2018

The seaport of La Línea de la Concepción, Spain, has long been a historical smuggler’s paradise. Now it serves as a hub for hashish imports from Morocco, thanks to widespread unemployment and its easy access to mainland Europe.


Harsh laws and high usage: France looks to reform its drug policies
Khaya Chhor – France 24: 1 March 2018

French President Emmanuel Macron is looking to reform the country’s drug laws as usage continues to rise despite already harsh punitive measures.


For more on this theme:

The drug smuggling scandal Russia wants to wish away

Turkey ‘target of international drug traffickers’

How We Will Win the War on Opioids
https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/will-win-war-opioids/

How hash and weed all but disappeared from Britain’s streets, as high-strength ‘skunk’ took over

Judge Rejects Lawsuit Seeking to Legalize Marijuana Nationwide

Mexico police charged with using death squad tactics on drug suspects

Poland’s Hard-Line Policy on Drugs Has Failed. What Next?

Only the Law Can Stop Duterte’s Murderous War on Drugs
http://foreignpolicy.com/2018/02/26/only-the-law-can-stop-dutertes-murderous-war-on-drugs/

Money laundering linked to drug trade a ‘structural’ issue: SFU criminologist
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Fighting the illegal wildlife trade means fighting global corruption and organised crime on a global scale
Dr. Rupa Huq – PoliticsHome: 28 February 2018

Rupa Huq, a member of the United Kingdom Parliament and co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Anti-Corruption, is calling on the government to take stronger steps to combat the illegal wildlife trade.

Bone of contention: Pragmatism versus ideology in countering poaching and wildlife trafficking

The author, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, argues that policy approaches toward wildlife trafficking must be based on pragmatism and evidence, not ideology. Her book, The Extinction Market, sketches out the main policy tools and schools of thought for countering wildlife trafficking.

For more on this theme:
Wildlife trafficking is crippling the planet
https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/opinion/wildlife-trafficking-is-crippling-the-planet/

More Nations Need to Step Up to Save Elephants
http://therevelator.org/nations-save-elephants/

Bolivia Bust Shows Demand for Wildlife in China

Illegal hunting: Wildlife teams launch action against poachers

Poachers use social media to share illegal fishing tips

Cambodia, Laos losing the last of their trees
http://www.atimes.com/article/cambodia-laos-losing-last-trees/

Women are marrying trees to help save them

Untangling The Web Of Illegal Wildlife Trade

Statement: New US Sanctions Aim to Block Libyan Oil Smuggling
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

On the trail of human traffickers
Jan-Philipp Scholz – Deutsche Welle: 1 March 2018

This video highlights the area of Edo State in southern Nigeria where nearly 20,000 women have fallen prey to human traffickers since 2015.

Libya’s Rogue Militias Keep the Country From Tackling Human Trafficking
Alessandra Bocchi – The Jamestown Foundation: 26 February 2018

Though Libya has successfully reduced people smuggling and human trafficking, fighting between militias has hindered efforts to eradicate irregular migration through the country.

For more on this theme:

Human trafficking: Modern-day slaves ‘within plain sight’

House Passes Bill To Crack Down On Online Sex Trafficking
https://www.npr.org/2018/02/27/589279439/house-to-vote-on-online-sex-trafficking-bill

‘Don’t struggle if you’re raped’: People smuggler gives chilling warning to undercover CNN reporter

Rohingya children live in fear of human trafficking and sexual assault: Report

With smuggling costs skyrocketing, parents balance risk and debt for their children’s future

Scathing UN migration report mars Australia’s first week on human rights council

The Tortured Path of Global Migration Reforms
https://www.cfr.org/councilofcouncils/global_memos/p39176

Delivering on commitments: new programmes to protect migrants and support return and reintegration in Africa worth €150 million adopted

India approves first anti-human trafficking bill
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

GSMA, ICANN formalise collaboration on Internet governance
Peter Dinham – ITWire: 2 March 2018

The Groupe Spéciéale Mobile Association (GSMA) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) signed a memorandum of understanding at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona aimed at enhancing collaboration on internet governance issues.


For more on this theme:

(Global) The internet is broken. Can this group fix it?

(Africa) Experts call for relevant research on Africa internet policy

INTERNET FREEDOM

China’s Censors Ban Winnie the Pooh and the Letter ‘N’ After Xi’s Power Grab

China will soon amend its constitution to eliminate the five-year term limit for the presidency. This paves the way for President Xi Jinping to be leader for life, and China’s internet censors are working overtime to erase critical remarks about the decision.


For more on this theme:

(EU, Global) EU Warns Tech Giants to Remove Terror Content in 1 Hour — or Else

(Global) When Fighting Fake News Aids Censorship

(Ukraine, Russia) Ukraine’s efforts to censors Russian web content and why they are doomed to fail
PRIVACY AND SECURITY
Court Seems Unconvinced Of Microsoft’s Argument To Shield Email Data Stored Overseas
Nina Totenberg – NPR: 27 February 2018
Microsoft argued before the U.S. Supreme Court that it should be Congress, not the courts, that decides a major issue regarding law enforcement access to data stored overseas.

For more on this theme:
(South Korea) Despite charm offensive, potential for North Korean Olympics cyber attack
(U.S.) San Francisco Internet Challenges Feds, Major ISPs
(EU) Summary: The EU General Data Protection Regulation

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT
Nation state cyber-attacks on the rise - detect lateral movement quickly
Rene Millman – SC Magazine: 26 February 2018
A recent report by the cyber security company CrowdStrike details key trends driving adversary targeting and takes a deep dive into the key factors shaping the targeted intrusion campaigns of China, Iran, North Korea and Russia. The report also highlights critical metrics defining the state of cyber security across industries.

Full report:
2018 CrowdStrike Global Threat Report

For more on this theme:
(Russia) Russia a potential threat actor in cybersecurity: NATO
(Global) Reshaping Diplomacy for the Digital World
(Russia, Global) Russia Will Be Back in 2018, Cyber Experts Warn
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

GCC govs moving toward technological development
Fady Kassatly and Souheil Moukaddem – Saudi Gazette: 1 March 2018

A recent survey by consulting firms Booz Allen Hamilton and Ipsos revealed that fostering public/private cyber partnerships for information sharing and innovation is critical for technological development.


For more on this theme:
(Malaysia) Two new initiatives announced by MDEC to strengthen Malaysia’s cybersecurity ecosystem

(Global) Private, public sectors must work together toward cyberresilience

(Thailand) Thailand Government and World Bank join hands to promote IoT awareness

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Australian universities and NGOs targeted by Iranian and Chinese hackers
Stilgherrian – ZDNet: 27 February 2018

The recent report by the cybersecurity company CrowdStrike also revealed that Australian universities have been targeted by China and Iran as they seek to steal intellectual property.


For more on this theme:
(China, U.S.) Cyberspace Norms and U.S.-China Relations: Addressing the Challenge of ‘China, Inc.+’

(U.S.) Fight cyberattacks with cyber-retaliation
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Cybersecurity skills shortage
Jim Kennedy – CSO: 1 March 2018

There is a lot of consternation over the upcoming lack of well-trained cyber professionals, but at the same time the resources needed to develop cyber skills remain critically underfunded.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Future cities have to get even smarter
https://www.raconteur.net/technology/future-cities-get-even-smarter

(Japan) AI Enters the Cyber Attack Realm
https://www.afcea.org/content/ai-enters-cyber-attack-realm

(U.K.) Cyber-savvy public could save UK’s SMEs millions

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Govt to train 37,000 law enforcement officers to identify, probe cyber crimes
Azaan Javaid – Hindustan Times: 26 February 2018

India has decided to train more than 37,000 police and law enforcement officers to identify and investigate cyber attacks.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Ransomware: Get ready for the next wave of destructive cyberattacks

(Canada) Canada to Devote $1 Billion of Federal Budget to Fighting Cybercrime

(Ukraine) Ukraine Rearrests Alleged Mastermind Of Global Cybercrime Gang
INFORMATION SHARING

FED IT Leaders Say Improved Data Sharing is the Number One Opportunity to Move Modernization Forward
MeriTalk: 22 February 2018

A report by the public/private partnership MeriTalk identifies improved data sharing between new and legacy systems as the most efficient way to modernize U.S. federal information technology.

https://www.meritalk.com/study/modernizing-the-monolith/?campaign=pressrelease

For more on this theme:
(Australia, Global) Collaboration is key to getting cyber insurance right

(U.S.) ‘Not Going To Automate Our Way Out’: FBI’s David Wallace

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

DHS leaders push cybersecurity risk assessment program for critical infrastructure companies
Chris Bing – Cyberscoop: 1 March 2018

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is hoping to improve cyber security for critical infrastructure by providing digital risk assessments to companies and government agencies and then suggesting which products should be installed.


For more on this theme:
(Global) Cybersecurity concerns intensify for critical infrastructure worldwide

(U.S.) Cyber Troops Focus on Security at Arctic Eagle 2018

(NATO) The reason a recent international cyber exercise was so unique
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

Terror, Online and Off: Recent Trends in Islamic State Propaganda Operations
Charlie Winter and Haroro J. Ingram – War on the Rocks: 2 March 2018
This article puts the recent decline in ISIS propaganda into perspective, first by mapping it and then by placing these trends into a broader strategic context and weighing their real-world policy implications.

ISIS Looks to Rebound in the Philippines — And Spread
The Cipher Brief: 1 March 2018
ISIS fighters fleeing Syria and Iraq are becoming a growing threat in Southeast Asia, particularly in the Philippines where the extremists have used ungoverned spaces as a stronghold in the region.
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/isis-looks-rebound-philippines-spread

For more on this theme:
US Adds Several Islamic State Affiliates to Terror List
The Islamic State 'mega-attack' that wasn't: How Trinidad's 'carnival plot' unraveled
Central Asia: Put Out the Islamic State Flags
Is South Africa at risk of Islamic State attacks?
Tuareg militias battle Islamic State-loyal militants in northern Mali
ISIS Tells Muslims to Kidnap and Murder Christians in Russian-Occupied Areas
Islamic State Re-emerges in Al-Qaeda Stronghold in Yemen
Who should you blame for the Islamic State? Saddam Hussein
Officials: ISIS Followers Plot WMD Attacks on US
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/officials-isis-followers-plot-wmd-attacks-us
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Where is al-Qaeda in Syria?
Mariya Petkova – Al-Jazeera: 1 March 2018
Al-Qaida and its successors in Syria are on the decline and are severely weakened, according to analysts. Still, Russia and the Syrian regime continue to use al-Qaida as an excuse to justify military operations.

Aman Abdurrahman: Leading Indonesia’s Jihadists from Behind Bars
Cameron Sumpter – The Diplomat: 2 March 2018
One of Indonesia’s most militant ideologues is now facing the death penalty, but his influence over his followers remains strong.

For more on this theme:

Jihadist: Hamas Wave of Arrests Follows Islamic State Attack in Sinai

ISIS and Al-Qaeda Terrorists Increase Attacks on Western Targets in Africa, Report Reveals

Into danger’s arms: Chaos as schoolgirls flee Boko Haram

Nigerians are demanding answers after another Boko Haram kidnapping

New Video Game Lets You Kill ISIS While Fighting as Hezbollah in Syria and Lebanon

Understanding al-Qaeda’s Threat to the West
https://www.hstoday.us/channels/understanding-al-qaeda-threat-to-west/
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

France’s latest crackdown on Islamic radicalization marks U-turn from previous attempts
Elena Berton – The Washington Times: 28 February 2018

France has unveiled a wide-ranging program to counter radicalization as extremists return from the battlefields of Syria and Iraq and a growing number of people are at risk of radicalizing.

Al-Qaeda Recruitment Methods Revealed
Clarin Project: 28 February 2018

In a document retrieved from Osama bin Laden’s hideout, al-Qaeda reveals some of its recruiting secrets. Al-Qaeda targeted “common” and “ignorant” recruits worldwide, preying particularly on youth.
https://clarionproject.org/al-qaeda-recruitment-methods-revealed/

For more on this theme:

Online extremism: UK government’s Islamic State blocking tool is neat but incomplete
http://theconversation.com/online-extremism-uk-governments-islamic-state-blocking-tool-is-neat-but-incomplete-92226

A World First: A UNESCO Chair on the Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism

Creating sustainable ‘soft’ approaches to counter radicalization and extremism

Indonesia Hosts Rare ‘Reconciliation’ Meeting Between Ex-Militants, Their Victims
https://www.voanews.com/a/indonesia-hosts-reconciliation-meeting-former-militants-their-victims/4275376.html

Anti-terror fight is against a mindset, not any religion: PM
http://www.livemint.com/Politics/eVr8JzGZ69x3AQJdaZJiK/Narendra-Modi-says-youth-should-associate-with-humanitarian.html

PERSPECTIVE: The Evolving Strategy of Homegrown Radical Recruitment
https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/terrorism-study/evolving-strategy-homegrown-radical-recruitment/

De-radicalising the radicalised: policy options
https://dailymails.com.pk/208653/de-radicalising-radicalised-policy-options/
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Raised by ISIS, Returned to Chechnya: ‘These Children Saw Terrible Things’

Russia has been bringing the women and children of ISIS back home. In Russia’s calculus, it is better to bring them home now than to see them radicalized in refugee camps.

For more on this theme:
Stranded in Libya: ISIL’s Tunisian women and children

Deadly reinforcement: ISIS fighters return to Africa

Guilty by association: Families of suspected Islamic State members pay a steep price

The Rule of Law Is the Best Response to Foreign Fighters from Western Countries

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

6 counterterrorism lessons from the Syrian civil war
Daniel L. Byman – Lawfare: 27 February 2018

Syria is both a counterterrorism success and a counterterrorism failure. This mixed record offers us many lessons for counterterrorism.
https://lawfareblog.com/six-counterterrorism-lessons-syrian-civil-war

For more on this theme:
All MINDEF, SAF personnel to go through counter-terrorism module: Maliki Osman

UN chief inks pact to better coordinate counter-terrorism support to Governments

EU boosts G5 Sahel counter-terrorism force

CARICOM leaders agree on counter-terrorism strategy
http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews_/CARICOM_leaders_agree_on_counter-terrorism_strategy?-profile=1228

Singapore seeks to bar communications from terror attack sites