

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

- Corruption
- Drug Trafficking
- Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources
- Organized Crime

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

- Internet Governance
- Internet Freedom
- Cyber Strategy and Risks
- Cyberattacks
- Cybercrime
- Protection of Critical Infrastructure

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

- Terrorism Around the World
- Israel/Hamas
- Russia/Ukraine

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.

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Ukraine owes it to itself and to the West to stem corruption

James P. Moore Jr. – Fortune: 22 February 2024

Transparency, accountability and even day-to-day transactions across the country have long been compromised.

<https://fortune.com/europe/2024/02/22/ukraine-west-corruption-politics-war/>

Why Vietnam’s Escalating Anti-Corruption Campaign Might Backfire

Mai Truong – The Diplomat: 26 February 2024

By drawing public attention to high-level graft, the “blazing furnace” campaign could inadvertently prompt more searching questions about the nature of communist rule.

<https://thediplomat.com/2024/02/why-vietnams-escalating-anti-corruption-campaign-might-backfire/>

For more on this theme:

Corruption scandals cast a shadow over Portugal’s early general election and may favor populists

<https://apnews.com/article/portugal-campaign-begins-early-election-march-10-781173c00fe310d9c6dc665f0be329c8>

Who is Viktor Pavlushchuk, newly-elected head of key Ukrainian anti-corruption agency?

<https://news.yahoo.com/viktor-pavlushchuk-newly-elected-head-201708634.html>

Xi Jinping’s never-ending hunt for corruption in the Communist Party

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-68213161>

Liberian President Launches Anti-Corruption Audits

<https://www.africanews.com/2024/02/09/liberian-president-launches-anti-corruption-audits/>

Côte d’Ivoire: Authorities must respect human rights and protect the side of anti-corruption

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr31/7658/2024/en/>

Preventing corruption in the Pacific through inter-agency collaboration

<https://www.unodc.org/roseap/en/pacific/2024/02/preventing-corruption/story.html>

Corruption and clean energy in South Africa: economic model shows trust in government is linked to takeup of renewables

<https://theconversation.com/corruption-and-clean-energy-in-south-africa-economic-model-shows-trust-in-government-is-linked-to-takeup-of-renewables-221779>

Back-to-Back Scandals Lift Lid on Venezuela’s Judicial Corruption

<https://insightcrime.org/news/back-to-back-scandals-lift-lid-venezuelas-judicial-corruption/>

Corruption in Malaysia: The No Shame Game

<https://thediplomat.com/2024/02/corruption-in-malaysia-the-no-shame-game/>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug violence threatens Costa Rica

Álvaro Murillo – *EL PAÍS*: 26 February 2024

Authorities look for ways to respond to the crisis after the record number of homicides in 2023. Meanwhile, the country's industry fears the impact of money laundering.

<https://english.elpais.com/international/2024-02-26/drug-violence-threatens-costa-rica.html>

Brussels Moves To Tackle 'Unacceptable' Drug Violence

Agence France-Presse: 27 February 2024

Authorities outlined plans to tackle a spike in drug crime across the Belgian capital, which has been shaken by a string of trafficking-linked shootings.

<https://www.barrons.com/news/brussels-moves-to-tackle-unacceptable-drug-violence-04797ab2>

For more on this theme:

Cops Stole 20 Kilos of Coke From a Cartel, and Now They're Being Hunted

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/y3w4ey/mexican-drug-cartel-killed-tijuana-police-stolen-cocaine>

Mexico president denies report of allegations that close associates took drug money during campaign

<https://apnews.com/article/mexico-lopez-obrador-drug-money-campaign-7c16954987a391bd77e4c0f41dd5e579>

Domestic and International Dimensions of the U.S. Fentanyl Crisis

<https://www.state.gov/briefings-foreign-press-centers/domestic-and-international-dimensions-of-the-us-fentanyl-crisis>

Interior ministers from 4 Arab countries agree in Jordan that illegal drug trade needs to be tackled

<https://apnews.com/article/jordan-syria-iraq-lebanon-captagon-illegal-drugs-2a3152ea4c67d3029e98e6bef2d0b158>

Surging cocaine violence has Uruguay clamoring for DEA help

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/surging-cocaine-violence-has-uruguay-clamoring-dea-help-2024-02-17/>

The challenge of responding to synthetic drug markets, through the lens of tramadol in West Africa

<https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/responding-to-synthetic-drug-markets-tramadol-west-africa/>

Chinese triads' money laundering schemes are fueling Canada's fentanyl nightmare

<https://www.nzz.ch/english/triad-money-laundering-is-fueling-canadas-fentanyl-nightmare-ld.1814726>

'Like an addiction': Thousands of Americans fall prey to Mexican cartel timeshare scam

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2024/02/22/thousands-of-americans-fall-prey-to-mexican-cartel-cjng-timeshare-scam/72695295007/>

A Pathway to Addiction: Tracing Drug-Trafficking Networks in Lebanon's Roumieh Prison

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/pathway-addiction-tracing-drug-trafficking-networks-lebanons-roumieh-prison>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

How advanced genetic testing can be used to combat the illegal timber trade

Melanie Zacharias – The Conversation: 22 February 2024

According to Interpol, 15% to 30% of the world's traded timber comes from illegal sources. The estimated annual value is as high as \$152 billion.

<https://theconversation.com/how-advanced-genetic-testing-can-be-used-to-combat-the-illegal-timber-trade-221085>

Ecuador: Organized Crime Increasingly Turns to Illegal Gold Mining

Lorena Baires – Diálogo: 27 February 2024

Drug-trafficking groups have been extending their tentacles toward mining, which allows them to finance themselves and launder assets.

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/ecuador-organized-crime-increasingly-turns-to-illegal-gold-mining/>

For more on this theme:

Dozens feared dead and others trapped following gold mine collapse in Venezuela

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/02/21/americas/venezuela-gold-mine-collapse-intl-latam/index.html>

Chilean Navy Deploys Submarine to Monitor Chinese Fishing Vessels

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/chilean-navy-deploys-submarine-to-monitor-chinese-fishing-vessels/>

Experts are using forensic science to fight wildlife trafficking

<https://www.earth.com/news/experts-are-using-forensic-science-to-fight-wildlife-trafficking/>

From poachers to conservationists

<https://www.fairplanet.org/story/poaching-wildlife-rescue-kenya-hunting/>

Concern for Mexico's vaquita as totoaba swim bladder trafficking surges online

<https://news.mongabay.com/2024/02/concern-for-mexicos-vaquita-as-totoaba-swim-bladder-trafficking-surges-online/>

How Latin America is using the law to fight environmental crime

<https://dialogochino.net/en/climate-energy/388977-how-latin-america-is-using-the-law-to-fight-environmental-crime/>

Chinese Fishing Fleet under the Limelight in Latin American Waters

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/chinese-fishing-fleet-under-the-limelight-in-latin-american-waters/>

Critics decry controversial bill that loosens deforestation restrictions in Peru

<https://news.mongabay.com/2024/02/critics-decry-controversial-bill-that-loosens-deforestation-restrictions-in-peru/>

Illegal logging ops discovered in Narra

<https://palawan-news.com/illegal-logging-ops-discovered-in-narra/>

Uganda, African states agree on new ways to fight illicit wildlife trade

https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/travel/uganda-african-states-agree-on-new-ways-to-fi-NV_181449

'Brutal' donkey skin trade banned by the African Union

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-68335851>

Cerrado: Beef trade risks key Brazil ecosystem – campaigners

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-68272643>

ORGANIZED CRIME

Mind the gap: Organized crime on the rise in Myanmar as resilience wanes

Louise Taylor – Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime: 26 February 2024

February 1 marked the third anniversary of the military coup. As the 2023 Global Organized Crime Index shows, the country currently has the highest levels of organized criminality in the world.

<https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/myanmar-organized-crime-resilience-ocindex/>

Meet 'XHelper,' the All-in-One Android App for Global Money Laundering

Nate Nelson – Dark Reading: 29 February 2024

User-friendly apps allow anybody to serve as traffickers for cybercrime syndicates.

<https://www.darkreading.com/threat-intelligence/xhelper-all-in-one-android-app-global-money-laundering>

For more on this theme:

Dirty Money Is Destroying Sudan

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/sudan/dirty-money-destroying-sudan>

With Venezuelan Criminal Groups Strengthening, Violence in Cúcuta Rises

<https://insightcrime.org/news/with-venezuelan-criminal-groups-strengthening-violence-in-cucuta-rises/>

Mexico Deploys Thousands of Troops to Combat Organized Crime

<https://www.voanews.com/a/mexico-deploys-thousands-of-troops-to-combat-organized-crime/7497990.html>

Small boats, big business: The industrialization of cross-channel migrant smuggling

<https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/english-channel-migrant-people-smuggling-france-uk-kurdish-gangs-crime/>

Interpol's number two official: The war in Ukraine will create more skilled, more ruthless and better armed criminal groups

<https://english.elpais.com/international/2024-02-23/interpols-number-two-official-the-war-in-ukraine-will-create-more-skilled-more-ruthless-and-better-armed-criminal-groups.html>

El Cártel de los Soles: The Venezuelan Nationalisation of Crime?

<https://greydynamics.com/el-cartel-de-los-soles-the-venezuelan-nationalisation-of-crime/>

EU's new Anti-Money Laundering Authority to be based in Frankfurt

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-says-new-anti-money-laundering-authority-be-based-frankfurt-2024-02-22/>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The EU AI Act: A landmark in AI regulation

Abhishek Khajuria – The Observer Research Foundation: 13 February 2024

With the European Union Artificial Intelligence Act, the EU has taken the first steps toward using and developing AI in a responsible manner.

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-eu-ai-act-a-landmark-in-ai-regulation>

For more on this theme:

(Global) From ChatGPT to Google's Gemini: when would generative AI products fall within the scope of the Digital Services Act?

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mediase/2024/02/12/from-chatgpt-to-googles-gemini-when-would-generative-ai-products-fall-within-the-scope-of-the-digital-services-act/>

(Global) Cyber norms serving their purpose despite ongoing attacks, says U.S. official

<https://therecord.media/cyber-norms-serving-their-purpose-liesyl-franz>

(Global) AI in the Year of Elections: A Force to be Reckoned With?

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/ai-year-elections-force-be-reckoned>

(Global) Should the UN govern global AI?

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/should-the-un-govern-global-ai/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

After Prigozhin, Russia clamps down online

Atlantic Council: 29 February 2024

Throughout 2023, Moscow continued its various crackdowns to prevent citizens from being exposed to content the Kremlin perceived as undermining its war efforts. The most significant development occurred during the Wagner Group mutiny.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/issue-brief/after-prigozhin-russia-clamps-down-online/>

For more on this theme:

(Iran) Iran regime's Crackdown on VPNs: The Battle for Online Freedom

<https://irannewsupdate.com/news/news-digest/iran-regimes-crackdown-on-vpns-the-battle-for-online-freedom/>

(Africa) 17 Internet Restrictions Recorded in Africa in 2023, 330 million People Affected – Study

<https://techeconomy.ng/17-internet-restrictions-recorded-in-africa-in-2023-330-million-people-affected-study/>

(Pakistan) Pakistan pulls the data plug

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/pakistan-pulls-data-plug>

CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

IntelBrief: The Threat Landscape of North Korea's Cyber Arsenal

The Soufan Center: 22 February 2024

While its attacks are primarily financially driven to prop up the heavily sanctioned regime, some demonstrate that Pyongyang's cyber strategy is deeply political as well through the targeting of critics and defectors.

<https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2024-february-22/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) GAO: National Cyber Director Needs to Take Additional Actions to Implement an Effective Strategy

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/gao-national-cyber-director-needs-to-take-additional-actions-to-implement-an-effective-strategy/>

(Israel/Hamas) Tool of First Resort: Israel-Hamas War in Cyber

<https://blog.google/technology/safety-security/tool-of-first-resort-israel-hamas-war-in-cyber/>

(Global) 2024 Cyber War Gets Hot — It's Time to Dynamically Respond

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/2024-cyber-war-gets-hot-its-time-to-dynamically-respond/>

(Morocco) Cyber Security Conclave: Cybersecurity, Digital Sovereignty Are Morocco's Core Concerns

<https://www.maroc.ma/en/news/cyber-security-conclave-cybersecurity-digital-sovereignty-are-morocco-core-concerns>

CYBERATTACKS

Cyber-attack hits Malawi's immigration service

Peter Jegwa and Basillioh Rukanga – BBC: 22 February 2024

The Malawi's government has suspended the issuing of passports after an attack on the service's computer network.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-68366749>

For more on this theme:

(Europe) IBM: Europe was the world's most targeted region for cyberattacks in 2023

<https://thenextweb.com/news/europe-worlds-most-targeted-region-for-cyberattacks>

(U.S.) US pharmacy outage triggered by 'Blackcat' ransomware at UnitedHealth unit, sources say

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/cybersecurity/cyber-security-outage-change-healthcare-continues-sixth-straight-day-2024-02-26/>

(Canada) Royal Canadian Mounted Police targeted in 'alarming' cyberattack

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/royal-canadian-mounted-police-targeted-alarming-cyberattack/story?id=107515480>

(UK) The UK has seen an increase in cyberattacks against higher education

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/100436-the-uk-has-seen-an-increase-in-cyberattacks-against-higher-education>

CYBERCRIME

Why Health Care Is Top Target for Cyber Criminals

Elise Takahama – Government Technology: 26 February 2024

Cyberattacks have plagued large corporations, small businesses and individuals for decades, but now health care has become a top target.

<https://www.govtech.com/security/why-health-care-is-top-target-for-cyber-criminals>

For more on this theme:

(North Korea) North Korea running malware-laden gambling websites as-a-service

https://www.theregister.com/2024/02/15/north_korea_turns_to_designing/

(Global) After LockBit takedown, police try to sow doubt in cybercrime community

<https://cyberscoop.com/lockbit-takedown-messaging-campaign/>

(Global) Lockbit cybercrime gang says it is back online following global police bust

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/cybersecurity/lockbit-cybercrime-gang-says-it-is-back-online-following-global-police-bust-2024-02-26/>

(Russia, Global) Russia's Cozy Bear dives into cloud environments with a new bag of tricks

https://www.theregister.com/2024/02/27/russia_cozy_bear_new_ttps/

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ASIO director-general warns of nation-state actors targeting critical infrastructure

David Hollingworth – CyberDaily.au: 29 February 2024

Australia's spy chief used his annual threat assessment to deliver a stark warning about cyber espionage.

<https://www.cyberdaily.au/government/10248-asio-director-general-warns-of-nation-state-actors-targeting-critical-infrastructure>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) US govt shares cyberattack defense tips for water utilities

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/us-govt-shares-cyberattack-defense-tips-for-water-utilities/>

(U.S., Global) Opinion: What the AT&T outage reveals

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/02/23/opinions/att-outage-us-infrastructure-kolasky/index.html>

(Global) Decoding Cyber Threats: Protecting Critical Infrastructure in a Digital World

<https://www.regulatoryoversight.com/2024/02/decoding-cyber-threats-protecting-critical-infrastructure-in-a-digital-world/>

(U.S.) Cyber Coastguard: US spends \$20bn to protect maritime infrastructure against threats

<https://www.verdict.co.uk/cyber-coastguard-us-spends-20bn-to-protect-maritime-infrastructure-against-threats/>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Fratricidal Jihad: Assessing the Central Asian ISKP Attacks on Turkey

Uran Botobekov – The Diplomat: 23 February 2024

Due to linguistic, religious and cultural commonalities, members of the Islamic State group and al-Qaida from Central Asia can often bypass security filters.

<https://thediplomat.com/2024/02/fratricidal-jihad-assessing-the-central-asian-iskp-attacks-on-turkey/>

For more on this theme:

British woman who joined ISIS loses fresh appeal against loss of citizenship

<https://www.politico.eu/article/shamima-begum-so-called-isis-bride-loses-another-appeal-over-loss-of-british-citizenship/>

Chemical weapons watchdog blames Islamic State for 2015 Syria attack

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/chemical-weapons-watchdog-blames-islamic-state-2015-syria-attack-2024-02-22/>

Is the Islamic State's Leadership Moving to Africa? Not So Fast

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/is-the-islamic-states-leadership-moving-to-africa-not-so-fast/>

AI Jihad: Deciphering Hamas, Al-Qaeda and Islamic State's Generative AI Digital Arsenal

<https://gnet-research.org/2024/02/19/ai-jihad-deciphering-hamas-al-qaeda-and-islamic-states-generative-ai-digital-arsenal/>

Tech Triumphs or Terrors: The Implications of Emerging Technologies on Bioterrorism

<https://gnet-research.org/2024/02/21/tech-triumphs-or-terrors-the-implications-of-emerging-technologies-on-bioterrorism/>

Jihadi History: Al-Qaeda's failed mobilization efforts in Central African Republic

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2024/02/jihadi-history-al-qaedas-failed-mobilization-efforts-in-central-african-republic.php>

Going Around in Circles: Af-Pak Relations from TTP to TTP

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/going-around-in-circles-af-pak-relations-from-ttp-to-ttp/>

From global jihad to local insurgencies: the changing nature of Sub-Saharan jihadism

<https://www.defencweb.co.za/security/national-security/from-global-jihad-to-local-insurgencies-the-changing-nature-of-sub-saharan-jihadism/>

Brief: Pro-Hamas Attackers in North America Remain Haphazard

<https://jamestown.org/program/brief-pro-hamas-attackers-in-north-america-remain-haphazard/>

Will Al-Shabaab Respond to Somaliland's Red Sea Agreement with Ethiopia?

<https://jamestown.org/program/will-al-shabaab-respond-to-somalilands-red-sea-agreement-with-ethiopia/>

'Markay Hain Taiz Tar': An Analysis of the Pakistani Taliban's Final Propaganda Video of 2023

<https://jamestown.org/program/markay-hain-taiz-tar-an-analysis-of-the-pakistani-talibans-final-propaganda-video-of-2023/>

ISRAEL/HAMAS

Netanyahu's postwar plan for Gaza reflects difficult balancing act

Chantal Da Silva – NBC News: 24 February 2024

Some experts say that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's first official proposal has more to do with political posturing than an offer of a tangible strategy.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/netanyahus-postwar-plan-gaza-reflects-difficult-balancing-act-experts-rcna140222>

For more on this theme:

Three Challenging Policy Issues for the Prosecutor in the Israel-Hamas Situation

<https://www.cfr.org/article/three-challenging-policy-issues-prosecutor-israel-hamas-situation>

A deal between Israel and Hamas appears to be taking shape. What would it look like?

<https://apnews.com/article/gaza-hamas-israel-ceasefire-deal-2ef0d5b960c4f132bfe9d91b19878a12>

Palestinian prime minister submits government's resignation, a move that could open door to reforms

<https://apnews.com/article/palestinians-abbas-israel-hamas-war-resignation-1c13eb3c2ded20cc14397e71b5b1dea5>

What would a new Palestinian government in the West Bank mean for the war in Gaza?

<https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinian-authority-government-explainer-aefe041e045f2c60918b42f42185f41e>

Israel vows to target Lebanon's Hezbollah even if cease-fire reached with Hamas in Gaza

<https://apnews.com/article/israel-hezbollah-france-lebanon-border-war-54b7e874169478b6f0a2b821ec07489a>

Exclusive: Lebanon's Hezbollah will halt fire if Hamas OKs Gaza truce, sources say

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/lebanons-hezbollah-will-halt-fire-if-hamas-oks-gaza-truce-sources-say-2024-02-27/>

Israel's Escalation With Hezbollah: Possible Scenarios – Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/29022024-israels-escalation-with-hezbollah-possible-scenarios-analysis/>

The Gaza war is testing Hezbollah's strategic capability

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2024/02/gaza-war-testing-hezbollahs-strategic-capability>

Breaking down Hezbollah's rocket strategy: the Short-Range Threat

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2024/02/breaking-down-hezbollahs-rocket-strategy-the-short-range-threat.php>

Why Rafah Marks a Turning Point in the Gaza War

<https://time.com/6761623/why-rafah-is-a-turning-point-in-the-gaza-war/>

Cairo's Fears as it Faces an Israeli Incursion in Rafah: Confrontation and Radicalization

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/cairos-fears-it-faces-israeli-incursion-rafah-confrontation-and-radicalization>

The Mental Health Toll of the War in Gaza

<https://time.com/6835665/palestinian-mental-health-war-israel-hamas/>

ISRAEL/HAMAS

For more on this theme:

Reports the two-state solution is dead are greatly exaggerated

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/reports-two-state-solution-dead-are-greatly-exaggerated>

Governing Gaza After the War: The International Perspectives

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2024/02/26/governing-gaza-after-war-international-perspectives-pub-91819>

Israel-Hamas: A globalised conflict

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/israel-hamas-globalised-conflict>

Plan for Gaza's Future Highlights the Challenges That Lie Ahead

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/02/plan-gazas-future-highlights-challenges-lie-ahead>

Israel-Hamas war: What is Russia's role as Mideast mediator?

<https://www.dw.com/en/israel-hamas-war-what-is-russias-role-as-mideast-mediator/a-68340753>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Putin's Warped Idea of Russian History

Olga Khvostunova – FPRI: 27 February 2024

To understand how the Ukraine war will end, one needs to take a closer look at the way Vladimir Putin understands Russian history.

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2024/02/putins-warped-idea-of-russian-history/>

As Russia's Full-Scale Invasion Enters Its Third Year, Optimism for Ukraine Sinks

Deep divisions on Russia's war in Ukraine were evident at a meeting of 4 Central European countries.

<https://apnews.com/article/czech-republic-poland-ukraine-war-russia-cb30efe44a452b8e4871aa1d1182ddd>

For more on this theme:

The West Fails to Learn from Crimea's Ten-Year Occupation

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/west-fails-learn-crimeas-ten-year-occupation>

Russia's Illegal Imprisonment of Ukrainian Civilians Is a Huge Problem

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/russias-illegal-imprisonment-ukrainian-civilians-huge-problem>

How Ukraine Overcame Russia's Grain Blockade

<https://www.cfr.org/article/how-ukraine-overcame-russias-grain-blockade>

The Sanctions Are Working — Just Ask Russia's Friends

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/sanctions-are-working-just-ask-russias-friends>

The Russian War Machine

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/russian-war-machine>

Independent Thinking: Is Alexei Navalny's death a watershed moment for Russia?

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2024/02/independent-thinking-alexei-navalnys-death-watershed-moment-russia>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia's influence in Kazakhstan is increasing despite the war in Ukraine

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2024/02/russias-influence-kazakhstan-increasing-despite-war-ukraine>

How Russia's invasion of Ukraine impacts global food security

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/how-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-impacts-global-food-security/>

Russia will honour Navalny some day

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/russia-will-honour-navalny-some-day/>

Russia: Death for Truth

<https://cepa.org/article/russia-death-for-truth/>

How to Make Putin's Life Impossible

<https://cepa.org/article/how-to-make-putins-life-impossible/>

Russian Society Disfigured and Degraded by the 'Long War'

<https://jamestown.org/program/russian-society-disfigured-and-degraded-by-the-long-war/>

Putin Has Yet to Signal a Real Openness to Peace Negotiations

<https://jamestown.org/program/putin-has-yet-to-signal-a-real-openness-to-peace-negotiations/>

Two Years in, Russia's War on Ukraine Continues to Pose Threat to Global Security

<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3686148/two-years-in-russias-war-on-ukraine-continues-to-pose-threat-to-global-security/>

Two years after Putin ordered a war on Ukraine, what's changed in Russia?

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/2/23/two-years-after-putin-ordered-a-war-on-ukraine-whats-changed-in-russia>

The toll on Russia from its war in Ukraine, by the numbers

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/the-toll-on-russia-from-its-war-in-ukraine-by-the-numbers/>

The EU needs a more comprehensive plan to aid Ukraine

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/the-eu-needs-a-more-comprehensive-plan-to-aid-ukraine/>

Ukraine floats possibility of inviting Russia to peace summit

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-floats-possibility-inviting-russia-peace-summit-2024-02-25/>

Russia, Ukraine, and Global Food Security: A Two-Year Assessment

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/russia-ukraine-and-global-food-security-two-year-assessment>

NATO allies rule out sending troops to Ukraine as Russia rebukes Macron

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/europeans-rule-out-sending-troops-ukraine-russia-rebukes-macron-2024-02-27/>

Russian Nuclear Calibration in the War in Ukraine

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/russian-nuclear-calibration-war-ukraine>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Ukraine's war strategy: Survive 2024 to win in 2025

<https://www.politico.eu/article/ukraine-war-hang-on-in-2024-to-win-in-2025-putin-zelenskyy-russia-counteroffensive/>

Yellen urges world leaders to 'unlock' frozen Russian Central Bank assets and send them to Ukraine

<https://apnews.com/article/yellen-russia-ukraine-war-central-bank-finance-85e080fd78e9d37951e1e7dcd58fdc87>

False Alarms: Reflecting on the Role of Cyber Operations in the Russia-Ukraine War

<https://www.stimson.org/2024/false-alarms-role-of-cyber-operations-in-the-russia-ukraine-war/>

The Russia-Ukraine War has caused a staggering amount of cultural destruction — both seen and unseen

<https://theconversation.com/the-russia-ukraine-war-has-caused-a-staggering-amount-of-cultural-destruction-both-seen-and-unseen-221082>

How Two Years Of War In Ukraine Have Changed Central Asia – Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/26022024-how-two-years-of-war-in-ukraine-have-changed-central-asia-analysis/>

As the Ukraine war enters its third year, the strategic goals of Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Vladimir Putin take centre stage

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-27/russia-ukraine-putin-zelenskyy-third-year-war/103512326>