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A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Anti-Corruption Commission Confronts Guatemala's 'Continuum of Impunity'
Alex Papadovassilakis – InSight Crime: 12 March 2024

Santiago Palomo was minutes from boarding a flight to New York when he got a call from Guatemala's newly inaugurated president, Bernardo Arévalo, who offered him a new role heading the government's flagship anti-corruption commission as the country looks to reignite its long fight against graft.

https://insightcrime.org/news/anti-corruption-commission-confronts-guatemala-continuum-impunity/

For more on this theme:

Slovakia's Top Court Hinders PM's Efforts to Change Criminal Code in His Favour

https://balkaninsight.com/2024/03/11/slovakias-top-court-hinders-pms-effort-to-change-criminal-code-in-his-favour/

Anti-corruption progress at the Summit for Democracy is essential to safeguarding democracy

https://www.brookings.edu/articles/anti-corruption-progress-at-the-summit-for-democracy-is-essential-to-safeguarding-democracy/

How Leaders Can Fight Corruption With Moldova's Stanislav Pavlovschi

https://www.forbes.com/sites/zengernews/2024/03/01/how-leaders-can-fight-corruption-with-moldovas-stanislav-pavlovschi/?sh=189138964479

Why Laos' Communists cannot do anti-corruption

https://www.rfa.org/english/commentaries/laos-corruption-commentary-03032024071342.html

China's war on corruption doubles punishment for bribery as tough new rules take effect

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3253843/chinas-war-corruption-doubles-punishment-bribery-tough-new-rules-take-effect

China's Belt and Road Initiative plagued by corruption and political backlash: report

https://www.foxnews.com/world/chinas-belt-road-initiative-plagued-corruption-political-backlash-report

Promoting Accountability for Corruption that Fuels South Sudan's Conflict

https://www.state.gov/promoting-accountability-for-corruption-that-fuels-south-sudans-conflict/

Corrupt, brutal and unprofessional? Africa-wide survey of police finds diverging patterns

https://theconversation.com/corrupt-brutal-and-unprofessional-africa-wide-survey-of-police-finds-diverging-patterns-224170

Eco-Solve South East Asia and Oceania regional consultation

https://globalinitiative.net/announcements/eco-solve-south-east-asia-and-oceania-regional-consultation-elite-protection-corruption-and-environmental-crime/

Fighting corruption's threat to democracy

https://www.brookings.edu/articles/fighting-corruptions-threat-to-democracy/

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Illicit Drugs Are Undermining Pacific Security

Jose Sousa-Santos - United States Institute of Peace: 9 March 2024

A network of local and transnational criminal enterprises has expanded the "drug highway" into a regional problem.

https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/03/illicit-drugs-are-undermining-pacific-security

EU Drug Markets: In-depth analysis

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction: 7 March 2024

Illicit drugs are one of the main profit-generating activities of organized crime and are estimated to represent 20% of global illicit proceeds.

https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/eu-drug-markets_en

For more on this theme:

Former Honduran president found guilty in drug trafficking trial

https://www.cnn.com/2024/03/08/americas/honduras-president-drug-trafficking-juan-orland-hernandez/index.html

Ex-Honduras first lady announces run for presidency days after husband's drug trafficking conviction

https://apnews.com/article/honduras-president-drug-trafficking-hernandez-cecda5df1d44d2db2dc74cfb53a3925b

Pioneering Dutch Cocaine Trafficker Sentenced to Life in Prison

https://insightcrime.org/news/pioneering-dutch-cocaine-trafficker-sentenced-to-life-in-prison/

Commission on Narcotic Drugs side event: evolving drug trends in Central and West Africa

https://issafrica.org/events/commission-on-narcotic-drugs-side-event-evolving-drug-trends-in-central-and-west-africa

CBP: America's Front Line Against Fentanyl

https://www.cbp.gov/frontline/cbp-america-s-front-line-against-fentanyl

Fighting cocaine trafficking still a U.S. priority – official

https://www.reuters.com/world/us/fighting-cocaine-trafficking-still-us-priority-official-2024-03-06/

Authorities struggle to protect Bolivian national park from drug-fueled deforestation

https://news.mongabay.com/2024/03/authorities-struggle-to-protect-bolivian-national-park-from-drug-fueled-deforestation/

Drug trafficking, more powerful than ever, floods Europe with cocaine

https://english.elpais.com/international/2024-03-10/drug-trafficking-more-powerful-than-ever-floods-europe-with-cocaine.html

The Surinamese Cocaine Trafficker Endlessly Evading Justice

https://insightcrime.org/news/surinamese-cocaine-trafficker-endlessly-evading-justice/

Syria avoids regional cold shoulder despite Captagon drug trade

https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/3/10/syria-avoids-regional-cold-shoulder-despite-captagon-drug-trade

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Facing illegal wildlife trade in the European union: A call for comprehensive measures University of Lisbon – Phys.org: 8 March 2024

The European Union is a major hub for those species whose international trade is not regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and measures recently adopted in the region to mitigate it are not enough.

https://phys.org/news/2024-03-illegal-wildlife-european-union-comprehensive.html

New method predicts harvest location to reveal illegal timber exports *University of Gothenburg – Phys.org: 14 March 2024*

Researchers are trying to combat illegal logging with a new process that can reveal where a tree has been harvested.

https://phys.org/news/2024-03-method-harvest-reveal-illegal-timber.html

For more on this theme:

Brazil cracks down on illegal gold miners

https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/01/03/brazil-cracks-down-on-gold-miners/

Venezuela military evicts hundreds from illegal gold mine

https://www.france 24.com/en/live-news/20240303-venezuela-military-evicts-hundreds-from-illegal-gold-mine

How We Uncovered the Modus Operandi of Criminals Smuggling Illegal Gold out of Venezuela

https://pulitzercenter.org/how-we-uncovered-modus-operandi-criminals-smuggling-illegal-gold-out-venezuela

How Illegal Fishing Ships Hide

https://nautil.us/how-illegal-fishing-ships-hide-526064/

West Africa's coast was a haven for piracy and illegal fishing — how technology is changing the picture

https://theconversation.com/west-africas-coast-was-a-haven-for-piracy-and-illegal-fishing-how-technology-is-changing-the-picture-222803

Rehabilitation of Guatemalan fauna highlights opacity of illegal wildlife trade

https://news.mongabay.com/2024/03/rehabilitation-of-guatemalan-fauna-highlights-opacity-of-illegal-wildlife-trade/

Pet and Wildlife Trafficking: A Dark Truth About Wild Farms Exposed by UK Nonprofit

https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/18531-pet-and-wildlife-trafficking-a-dark-truth-about-wild-farms-exposed-by-uk-nonprofit

Factsheet: Netted In Illegal Wildlife Trade - Sharks of India

https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/factsheet-netted-in-illegal-wildlife-trade-sharks-rays-and-skates-of-india/

Al Enhances Understanding of Global Wildlife Threats: Study

https://www.miragenews.com/ai-enhances-understanding-of-global-wildlife-1194120/

ORGANIZED CRIME

How Money Laundering Rules Could Be Used to Tackle Deforestation

Isabella Kaminski - DeSmog: 8 March 2024

A first-of-its-kind legal complaint in France aims to hold banks accountable for their work with companies that contribute to the practice.

https://www.desmog.com/2024/03/08/money-laundering-rules-deforestation-france-sherpa-bnp-paribas-bpce-axa-criminal-investigation/

For more on this theme:

Chinese suspect to plead guilty in Singapore's multibillion-dollar money-laundering case

https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3254553/chinese-suspect-plead-guilty-singapores-multibillion-dollar-money-laundering-case

Britain consults on easing burden of anti-money laundering checks

https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/britain-consults-easing-burden-anti-money-laundering-checks-2024-03-11/

ED conducts searches in 'illegal' sand mining linked money laundering case

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ed-conducts-searches-in-illegal-sand-mining-linked-money-laundering-case/article 67931550.ece

US Sanctions Transnational Al-Shabaab Money Laundering Network

https://www.eurasiareview.com/12032024-us-sanctions-transnational-al-shabaab-money-laundering-network/

African countries on the global dirty money watchlist in 2024 - FATF

https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/markets/african-countries-on-the-global-dirty-money-watchlist-in-2024-fatf/pl9118c

Anti-money laundering swoops seize millions in assets

https://cyprus-mail.com/2024/03/13/anti-money-laundering-swoops-seize-millions-in-assets/

Political Violence in Mexico's 2024 Elections: Organized Crime Involvement

https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/political-violence-mexicos-2024-elections-organized-crime-involvement

Transnational Organized Crime and the Pacific Islands

https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/transnational-organized-crime-and-the-pacific-islands/

Andean Community Seeks to Curb Organized Crime

https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/andean-community-seeks-to-curb-organized-crime/

Interpol Financial Fraud assessment: A global threat boosted by technology

https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2024/INTERPOL-Financial-Fraud-assessment-A-global-threat-boosted-by-technology

Hundreds rescued from love scam centre in the Philippines

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-68562643

On the line: Can exposure reporting disrupt organized environmental crime?

https://global initiative.net/analysis/exposure-reporting-environmental-crime-disruption/

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Al and Product Safety Standards Under the EU Al Act

Hadrien Pouget and Ranj Zuhdi - Carnegie: 5 March 2024

For the European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act to set a global benchmark for regulation, the resulting standards need to balance detail and legal clarity with flexibility to adapt to the emerging technologies.

https://carnegieendowment.org/2024/03/05/ai-and-product-safety-standards-under-eu-ai-actpub-91870

For more on this theme:

(Global) Digital Sovereignty and Internet Standards

https://circleid.com/posts/20240305-digital-sovereignty-and-internet-standards

(Global) Al: What are the pros and cons of regulation?

https://www.dw.com/en/ai-what-are-the-pros-and-cons-of-regulation/video-68516623

(Global) Al bias: the organised struggle against automated discrimination

https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/medialse/2024/03/07/ai-bias-the-organised-struggle-against-automateddiscrimination/

INTERNET FREEDOM

The Cost of Blocking the Internet

Katharina Buchholz - Statistica: 12 March 2024

By first throttling and then blocking access to social media and news outlets in the aftermath of its invasion of Ukraine, Russia has caused the most expensive online blockages of 2022 and 2023.

https://www.statista.com/chart/23864/estimated-cost-of-internet-shutdowns-by-country/

For more on this theme:

(Turkey) Tech companies asked to resist internet censorship ahead of Turkish elections

https://turkishminute.com/2024/03/04/tech-companies-asked-resist-internet-censorship-ahead-turkish-

(China) How Microsoft's Bing Helps Maintain Beijing's Great Firewall

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2024-03-07/microsoft-s-bing-helps-maintain-china-s-greatfirewall

(Global) The Countries Shutting Down the Internet the Most

https://www.statista.com/chart/15250/the-number-of-internet-shutdowns-by-country/

(Pakistan) In Pakistan, threats continue to internet access, including social media

https://therecord.media/pakistan-internet-social-media-restrictions-outages

(Burma) Myanmar Junta cuts internet and phone lines in 80 townships: Report

https://www.indiatodayne.in/international/story/myanmar-junta-cuts-internet-and-phone-lines-in-80townships-report-932153-2024-03-15

CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

The Five Bears: Russia's Offensive Cyber Capabilities

Oscar Rosengren - Grey Dynamics: 7 March 2024

The group constitutes an integral part of Moscow's offensive capabilities. State-sponsored Advanced Persistent Threat groups are part of a network, making Russia one of the strongest actors in cyberspace today.

https://greydynamics.com/the-five-bears-russias-offensive-cyber-capabilities/

For more on this theme:

(China) How China Seeks to Dominate the Information Age

https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/03/how-china-seeks-dominate-information-age

(U.S., Africa) Tracking Progress of the U.S. Digital Transformation With Africa Initiative

https://carnegieendowment.org/2024/03/11/tracking-progress-of-u.s.-digital-transformation-with-africa-initiative-pub-91947

(Africa) Security and Trust in Africa's Digital Financial Inclusion Landscape

https://carnegieendowment.org/2024/03/08/security-and-trust-in-africa-s-digital-financial-inclusion-landscape-pub-91932

(EU) Cyber solidarity package: Council and Parliament strike deals to strengthen cyber security capacities in the EU

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/03/06/cyber-solidarity-package-council-and-parliament-strike-deals-to-strengthen-cyber-security-capacities-in-the-eu/

(U.S.) One Year In: The President's National Cybersecurity Strategy is Driving Change and Protecting the Nation

https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/one-year-in-the-presidents-national-cybersecurity-strategy-is-driving-change-and-protecting-the-nation/

CYBERATTACKS

The French government says it's being targeted by unusual intense cyberattacks The Associated Press: 11 March 2024

France said several of its services have been hit with "unprecedented intensity," and a special crisis center was activated to restore online services.

 $https://apnews.com/article/france-cyberattacks-government-targeted-f57a4114d627422274bfcdc019\ 3d3e74$

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) How a cyberattack crippled the U.S. health care system

https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-a-cyberattack-crippled-the-u-s-health-care-system

(Japan, North Korea) Japan Blames North Korea for PyPI Supply Chain Cyberattack

https://www.darkreading.com/application-security/japan-blames-north-korea-for-pypi-supply-chain-cyberattack

(South Africa) Cyberattack Targets Regulator Database in South Africa

https://www.darkreading.com/cyberattacks-data-breaches/cyberattack-targets-south-african-regulator-database

CYBERCRIME

Broke Cyber Pros Flock to Cybercrime Side Hustles

Becky Bracken - Dark Reading: 8 March 2024

Burned-out professionals dealing with layoffs and stressful working conditions are increasingly finding a better way to earn a buck: cybercrime.

https://www.darkreading.com/cybersecurity-operations/broke-cyber-pros-cybercrime-side-hustles

For more on this theme:

(Global) Interpol: Criminals Increasingly Use AI, Crypto and Online Scams

https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/18562-interpol-criminals-increasingly-use-ai-crypto-and-online-scams

(Global) One reason school cyberattacks are on the rise? Schools are easy targets for hackers

https://www.npr.org/2024/03/11/1236995412/cybersecurity-hackers-schools-ransomware

(U.S.) FBI: Cybercrime cost Americans over \$12.5B in 2023

https://www.scmagazine.com/news/fbi-cybercrime-cost-americans-over-12-5b-in-2023

(China) Chinese Cybercrime: Discretion Is the Better Part of Valor

https://www.govinfosecurity.com/chinese-cybercrime-discretion-better-part-valor-a-24592

(Cambodia) Scam Victims Say Human Trafficking Still a Problem in Cambodia

https://www.voanews.com/a/scam-victims-say-human-trafficking-still-a-problem-in-cambodia/7520511.html

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

White House advisory group says market forces 'insufficient' to drive cybersecurity in critical infrastructure

Derek B. Johnson - CyberScoop: 7 March 2024

An industry-led group is calling for the federal government to develop economic incentives for small and medium-sized businesses, simplify cyber regulations and provide clear liability protections around information sharing.

https://cyberscoop.com/nstac-white-house-advisory-group-critical-infrastructure/

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Dragos CEO: Digitization in critical infrastructure will spur attacks

https://cyberscoop.com/water-digitization-critical-infrastructure-attacks/

(EU) EU to Implement "Cyber Shield" Legislation to Safeguard Critical Infrastructure

https://www.cryptopolitan.com/eu-to-implement-cyber-shield-legislation/

(U.S.) Article: Cyber Threats are Here to Stay: 3 Tips for Defending U.S. Critical Infrastructure Under Siege

https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/article-cyber-threats-are-here-to-stay-3-tips-for-defending-u-s-critical-infrastructure-under-siege/

(Africa) Infrastructure Cyberattacks, Al-Powered Threats Pummel Africa

https://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities-threats/ai-powered-threats-cyberattacks-on-infrastructure-pummel-africa

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

US Intel: ISIS, al Qaeda, Hamas, & Hezbollah

Wilson Center: 14 March 2024

The annual assessment covers global terrorist threats and the impact of the Israel-Hamas war.

https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/us-intel-isis-al-qaeda-hamas-hezbollah

Violence in the Mideast, rising threats from Islamic State group in Afghanistan pressure US, allies

Lolita C. Baldor - The Associated Press: 7 March 2024

Violence fueled by Iran presents the most likely threat to the United States as the risk of an attack on U.S. and Western interests abroad is increasing.

https://apnews.com/article/iran-middle-east-mideast-attack-treat-bc88b3364ebc2cf7dfbfea4568eb4d96

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US Sanctions Money Launderers Connected to Al-Shabab

https://www.voanews.com/a/us-sanctions-money-launderers-connected-to-al-shabab/7523193.html

New UNODC research on child recruitment and exploitation by terrorist groups shows need for a united front on child protection

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/frontpage/2024/February/new-unodc-research-on-child-recruitment-and-exploitation-by-terrorist-groups-shows-need-for-a-united-front-on-child-protection.html

Rethinking Risk: Reducing Harm to Nonprofits in the Push to Counter Terrorism Financing

https://www.justsecurity.org/92828/rethinking-risk-reducing-harm-to-nonprofits-in-the-push-to-counter-terrorism-financing/

The true cost of fake fashion

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-29/the-true-cost-of-fake-fashion-foreign-correspondent/103455512

ISIS Is at Least Twice as Big as We First Thought It Was

https://uk.style.yahoo.com/style/isis-least-twice-big-first-thought-113000969.html

Hostage to violent extremism: Kidnapping in northern Benin

https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/hostage-to-violent-extremism-kidnapping-in-northern-benin/

The Islamic State on the March in Africa

https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/islamic-state-march-africa

NIA Dismantles Remaining Islamic State Cells in India

https://jamestown.org/program/nia-dismantles-remaining-islamic-state-cells-in-india/

TTP Activity Causes Continued Deterioration in Pakistani-Afghan Relations

https://jamestown.org/program/ttp-activity-causes-continued-deterioration-in-pakistani-afghan-relations/

Tenth SG report states ISIL continues to adapt and evolve despite death of its leader

https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/news/tenth-sg-report-states-isil-continues-adapt-and-evolve-despite-death-its-leader

ISRAEL/HAMAS

Israel Needs a New Strategy

Dennis Ross - The Washington Institute for Near East Policy: 13 March 2024

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's "total victory" is not possible, but demilitarizing Hamas and stabilizing Gaza still are, especially with help from Egypt and other key players.

https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/israel-needs-new-strategy

For more on this theme:

Judy Asks: Has The War in Gaza Irreversibly Damaged Europe's Credibility?

https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/91963

Middlemen Push Up Prices As Gazans Struggle To Survive

https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/middlemen-push-up-prices-as-gazans-struggle-to-survive

Israel's Hezbollah problem could outlast its war in Gaza

https://thehill.com/policy/defense/4517349-israel-hezbollah-outlast-gaza-war/

'Not an exaggeration': Fears rise of Israeli incursion into Lebanon to push back Hezbollah

https://breakingdefense.com/2024/03/not-an-exaggeration-fears-rise-of-israeli-incursion-into-lebanonto-push-back-hezbollah/

Here's what keeps the IDF up at night concerning Hezbollah

https://thehill.com/opinion/international/4509613-heres-what-keeps-the-idf-up-at-night-concerninghezbollah/

Lebanese-Israeli fighting looks set to scuttle plans for historic land border settlement

https://theconversation.com/lebanese-israeli-fighting-looks-set-to-scuttle-plans-for-historic-land-bordersettlement-222832

Five ways Israelis have changed, after 5 months of war

https://www.npr.org/2024/03/09/1236537541/israel-five-months-hamas-war

Ramadan begins in Gaza with hunger worsening and no end to the war in sight

https://apnews.com/article/israel-hamas-war-news-03-11-2024-c6835d50f91dff0443e0f7fdf5e3229f

Israel, Hamas Trade Blame for Deadlocked Negotiations

https://www.voanews.com/a/israel-hamas-trade-blame-for-deadlocked-negotiations-/7521337.html

Inside Israel's allegations against U.N. workers in Gaza

https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/israel-allegations-unrwa-gaza-hamas-rcna142116

Biden: Netanyahu 'hurting Israel' by not preventing more civilian deaths in Gaza

https://apnews.com/article/biden-netanyahu-israel-hamas-gaza-civilians-ceasefire-2d4e5657db45ccbe 2bb793f06f74c913

UNRWA report says Israel coerced some agency employees to falsely admit Hamas links

https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/unrwa-report-says-israel-coerced-some-agency-employeesfalsely-admit-hamas-links-2024-03-08/

Israel says it plans to direct Palestinians out of Rafah ahead of anticipated offensive

https://apnews.com/article/israel-hamas-war-news-03-13-2024-1ecd20b754890b623f523be41591aadf

ISRAEL/HAMAS

For more on this theme:

Britain updates 'extremism' definition amid Israel-Hamas war

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2024/03/14/britain-unveils-new-extremismdefinition/1931710415582/

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Lauren Baillie on the ICC's Latest Warrants for Russian War Crimes

Lauren Baillie - The United States Institute of Peace: 13 March 2024

For the first time, the International Criminal Court has charged high-level commanders with crimes against humanity - showing that Russia's assault on civilians and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine is "part of a policy."

https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/03/lauren-baillie-iccs-latest-warrants-russian-war-crimes

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Ukraine War Takes a Toll on Russia

https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/03/ukraine-war-takes-toll-russia

Will Sweden's NATO Membership Deter Russian Aggression?

https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/03/will-swedens-nato-membership-deter-russian-aggression

Sweden and Finland Add Both Muscle and Risk to NATO

https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/91922

Eroding Consolidation: Putin's Regime Ahead of the 2024 "Election"

https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/91955

China-Europe Relations, Two Years After Russia Invaded Ukraine

https://carnegieendowment.org/2024/03/11/china-europe-relations-two-years-after-russia-invadedukraine-pub-91940

Why Cyber Attacks on Ukrainians Aren't Working the Way Russia Expected

https://carnegieendowment.org/2024/03/11/why-cyber-attacks-on-ukrainians-aren-t-working-wayrussia-expected-pub-91931

Bankers Must Stand Up in the Fight for Ukraine's Victory

https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/bankers-must-stand-fight-ukrainesvictory

The Collapse of Ukraine's Oligarchy in Ten Years of War

https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/collapse-ukraines-oligarchy-ten-years-war

Why Russian Elites Are Silent

https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/why-russian-elites-are-silent

All the autocrat's men: The court politics of Putin's inner circle

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/report/all-the-autocrats-men-the-courtpolitics-of-putins-inner-circle/

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

What to watch in Russia's stage-managed presidential 'election'

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/what-to-watch-in-russias-stage-managedpresidential-election/

Russia warns Ukraine war could spin out of control due to action of one or two NATO countries

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Putin warns again that Russia is ready to use nuclear weapons if its sovereignty is threatened

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