CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)
- Corruption
- Drug Trafficking
- Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources
- Money Laundering and Organized Crime

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)
- Internet Governance
- Internet Freedom
- Cyber Statecraft and Capacity Building
- Cyberattacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
- Cybercrime

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
- ISIS and Foreign Fighters
- Terrorism Around the World
- Irregular Warfare: Cyber
- Russia/Ukraine
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

‘Graft probes and power games’: Xi’s corruption drive turns to cash trail
Poornima Weerasekara – Agence France-Presse: 10 March 2022
China’s President Xi Jinping sets his sights on domestic critics’ riches in a corruption crackdown to consolidate his power and secure an unprecedented third term.

South Africa’s Corruption Nemesis
Cayley Clifford – Project Syndicate: 10 March 2022
A report highlights the urgent need for South Africa to implement reforms to combat systemic corruption and restore confidence in the constitution. The biggest obstacle is the ruling African National Congress, which is beset by infighting.

For more on this theme:

‘Serbian prosecutors are not fighting corruption because they are afraid’
https://www.euractiv.com/section/enlargement/interview/serbian-prosecutors-are-not-fighting-corruption-because-they-are-afraid/

Combatting corruption
https://today.law.harvard.edu/combatting-corruption/

The ingrained corruption of Iran’s IRGC and Quds Force
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2035861

Defector pilot describes corruption, ‘brainwashing’ in Myanmar’s Air Force

Revenge in Guatemala? Anti-corruption prosecutors arrested

Former Wildlife Reserves Singapore assistant director charged with corruption involving more than S$200,000

Lagos to implement anti-corruption commission law

America’s Anti-Corruption Strategy: Putting Bad Actors on Notice
https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/america-s-anti-corruption-strategy-9873082/

Gabriel Rufyiri: “Corruption is the enemy of development”
https://www.africanews.com/2022/03/11/gabriel-rufyiri-corruption-is-the-enemy-of-development/
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Break the link between illicit drugs and social media: UN-backed report

United Nations News: 10 March 2022

The International Narcotics Control Board, an independent, U.N.-backed body, calls on governments to do more to regulate social media platforms that glamorize drug-related behavior and boost sales of controlled substances.


Narcotrafficking, a Cause of Deforestation in Honduras

Kay Valle – Diálogo: 15 March 2022

Deforestation in Honduras has many causes. Organized crime, narcotrafficking, illegal logging and forest fires all greatly harm the environment.


For more on this theme:

U.S. judge says no immunity for ex-Venezuela general accused of drug trafficking


Ex-Honduran Police Chief ‘El Tigre’ Arrested on Drug Smuggling Charges


Trade in internationally controlled psychotropic substances during 2020 largely unaffected by COVID-19 pandemic; monitoring availability remains a challenge due to limited consumption data


UN commission moves to control fentanyl precursors, after urging by Biden administration

https://www.foxnews.com/politics/un-commission-moves-control-fentanyl-precursors-biden-administration

Colombia Airport Bust Highlights Risky Business for Female ‘Drug Mules’


Mexican Drug Cartels Are Increasingly Using Bitcoin (Report)


How drug runners use ‘narco submarines’ to traffic cocaine, money & more

https://nypost.com/2022/03/12/how-drug-runners-use-narco-submarines-to-traffic-cocaine/

Upcoming Biden Opioid Plan Will Target Treatment, Trafficking


Drugs Smuggled Where Controls, Wires Are Kept Put Airplanes at Risk

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Suppressed by the COVID pandemic, the illegal wildlife trade is now getting back into full swing

Max Weston – Environmental Investigation Agency: 11 March 2022

Research by EIA shows that trade in some of the most widely trafficked wildlife commodities — raw ivory, pangolin scales, rhino horn and tigers — is now resurging after being temporarily suppressed by the pandemic.


China’s aggressive illegal fishing hurting world’s marine resources

ANI: 17 March 2022

Exploitation and illegal fishing by China is hurting the world’s marine resources and livelihoods.

https://theprint.in/world/chinas-aggressive-illegal-fishing-hurting-worlds-marine-resources/877019/

For more on this theme:

How Local Political Support Gives Illegal Miners Carte Blanche in Brazil’s Amazon


Something fishy: Wildlife trafficking from Mexico to China

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/03/08/something-fishy-wildlife-trafficking-from-mexico-to-china/

The Unimaginable Scope and Damage of Animal Trafficking


Record seizures mark Sri Lanka’s rise as a smuggling hub for star tortoises


These tiny succulents are under siege from international crime rings

https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/environment-and-conservation/2022/03/these-tiny-succulents-are-under-siege-from-international-crime-rings

In Brazil, Indigenous Ka’apor take their territory’s defense into their own hands


To fight invaders, Munduruku women wield drone cameras and cellphones


Illegal gold in the Brazilian Amazon

https://www.mining-technology.com/features/amazon-illegal-gold-mining/
MONEY LAUNDERING AND ORGANIZED CRIME

Interpol Introduces New Center to Fight Financial Crimes
Zdravko Ljubas — Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 16 March 2022

Interpol launches a Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Center to fight rapid growth in sophisticated transnational financial crime.

For more on this theme:

Money Laundering and High-Value Art: Treasury’s Study Discusses Financial Crimes and NFTs
https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/money-laundering-and-high-value-art-5709282/


The EU’s anti-money laundering regulation and data protection: Part II

Using AI to fight money laundering
https://www.information-age.com/using-ai-to-fight-money-laundering-123498934/

The EU is homing in on dirty money
https://www.ceps.eu.ceps-publications/the-eu-is-homing-in-on-dirty-money/

Laundered money: Putin’s Achilles’ heel?

Dominican Republic Cybercrime Ring Shows Extent of Caribbean’s Financial Fraud Crisis

Mom-and-Pop Stores: Perfect Money Laundering Vehicles on US-Mexico Border

Tackling illicit trade through stricter anti-money-laundering rules
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The internet is on the verge of the next fundamental change
Charles Clancy – The Hill: 16 March 2022

From the things we buy to the news we consume and what we believe, there is almost no part of our lives that the internet does not affect. And it is undergoing its next fundamental change.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Invasion of Ukraine – International Law, IHL, binding Norms and Accountability measures for the Cyberspace are needed more than ever

(Global) Why We Can’t Disconnect Russia From the Internet

(Global) Ukraine: What Are the Likely Implications for Norms and Discussions in Cyberspace?

INTERNET FREEDOM

Russia may aspire to a China-style internet, but it's a long way off
Arjun Kharpal – CNBC: 16 March 2022

As Russia’s war on Ukraine continues, Moscow has looked to tighten control over its domestic internet, cutting off apps made by U.S. technology giants even while other firms have pulled their own services from the country. But a move to emulate the internet as it exists in China — perhaps the most restricted online environment anywhere — is a long way off, and Russian citizens still manage to bypass controls.


For more on this theme:

(Russia) How to circumvent state internet censorship in Russia

(China) China is expanding online gaming limits to include livestreaming and social media
https://www.pcgamer.com/uk/china-is-expanding-online-gaming-limits-to-include-livestreaming-and-social-media/
CYBER STATECRAFT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Indians fight for the ‘right to be forgotten online’
Al Jazeera: 16 March 2022

Multiple petitions in India seek to remove personal information from the internet on the grounds that it is no longer necessary or relevant, pitting privacy rights against freedom of speech and the public interest.


For more on this theme:
(Africa) African Lessons in Cyber Strategy

(India) Is India prepared to protect itself from cyber-attacks?

(U.K.) UK cyber security overhaul brings “a sword of Damocles” to MSPs

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Denso’s German network hit by cyberattack
Bloomberg: 13 March 2022

Denso, a top Toyota supplier, said it was targeted by a ransomware attack. The incident is the second recent cyberattack against a Toyota parts maker.

https://europe.autonews.com/suppliers/densos-german-network-hit-cyberattack

For more on this theme:

(Israel) Israel says its government websites were hit by cyber attack

(France) After Nvidia and Samsung, gaming giant Ubisoft suffers cyber attack

(Germany, Russia) Hackers Hit Rosneft
CYBERCRIME

The Correlation Between Covid-19 and Cybercrime
Krishna Athal – Entrepreneur: 10 March 2022

The World Economic Forum presented its first Global Cybersecurity Outlook report, which highlights trends and examines anticipated cybersecurity challenges.
https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/417674

For more on this theme:
(Russia) The hypocrisy of Russia’s push for a new global cybercrime treaty

(Global) Remote Work Has Led To A Cybercrime Boom—Here’s How To Stop It
https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2022/03/07/remote-work-has-led-to-a-cybercrime-boom-heres-how-to-stop-it/?sh=785148e2f6a8

(Global) It’s Not Fair, But Cyber Crime Is Cheap
https://securityintelligence.com/articles/cyber-crime-cheap/

(Global) Cyberattacks are on the rise as hackers use Russia-Ukraine war as a distraction, CrowdStrike CEO says

(U.S.) US companies to face new cybercrime reporting requirements
https://www.deccanherald.com/international/world-news-politics/us-companies-to-face-new-cybercrime-reporting-requirements-1090552.html

(Global) How Predictive Analytics Is Affecting Cybercrime
https://www.finextra.com/blogposting/21985/how-predictive-analytics-is-affecting-cybercrime

(Global) Youth and Cybercrime: Save your teen from being dragged down to the wrong track
https://www.digitalinformationworld.com/2022/03/youth-and-cybercrime-save-your-teen.html#

(Global) Who’s who in the cyber criminal underground
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

**ISIS confirms death of its leader, names new chief**
*Reuters: 11 March 2022*

The Islamic State terror group confirmed the death of its leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi as well as its spokesperson. It announced Abu Al-Hassan Al-hashemi Al-Qurayshi as its new chief.


**CENTCOM Commander Warns ISIS Attacks in Afghanistan Will ‘Ramp Up’ Soon**
*Brittany Bernstein – National Review: 15 March 2022*

Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, commander of U.S. Central Command, said that ISIS attacks are likely to “ramp up” in the coming months as the Taliban has struggled to limit the group since taking control of Afghanistan.


*For more on this theme:*

**ISIL suicide bomber of Pakistan mosque was Afghan exile: Police**


**‘Real danger, ticking bomb:’ Children staying at al-Hol camp**

https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/04032022

**Farhad Hoomer and the broader picture of Islamic State-linked cases in South Africa**


**Mozambique’s Displaced Recount Brutality of Cabo Delgado Insurgents**


**A life in limbo for the wives and children of ISIS fighters**


**German woman ‘ran ISIS fund-raising operation’ from Syria refugee camp**

https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/2022/03/14/german-woman-ran-isis-fund-raising-operation-from-syria-refugee-camp/

**Is ISIS in crisis?**

https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/is-isis-in-crisis
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Online Extremists Are Using Old Technologies for New Purposes
Bennett Clifford – The National Interest: 10 March 2022

Extremists show they can move forward on the internet by going backward.

https://nationalinterest.org/blog/techland-when-great-power-competition-meets-digital-world/online-extremists-are-using-old

How Burkina Faso became the epicentre of conflict in the Sahel
Mucahid Durmaz – Al Jazeera: 11 March 2022

Casualties in the West African state are eclipsing those in its neighbor Mali, the birthplace of the conflict.


For more on this theme:

Syrian Al-Qaeda-linked group designated as ‘Specially Designated Global Terrorist’ by the US

Indonesia Pays $1.7M in Compensation to 142 Terror Victims, Families

Mali: France announces death of al-Qaeda leader as two UN peacekeepers killed

Iran’s Apparent Supply of Combat Drones to Venezuela Highlights Terrorism Risks

Head of Africa Command says ‘deadly terrorism has metastasized’ on continent

Investigation into arms flows to al-Shabaab insurgents points to Mozambican military

Over 500 ‘Repentant’ Boko Haram Terrorists Graduate From Rehabilitation Camp In Gombe, Sent Back To Home Communities
https://saharareporters.com/2022/03/14/breaking-over-500-repentant-boko-haram-terrorists-graduate-rehabilitation-camp-gombe-sent
IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

Russia's gaslighting has put the global internet in jeopardy
Amanda Cassidy – Image: 12 March 2022

Many of the rules of global exchanges have been torn up following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Will the internet be next?

For more on this theme:
Russia is nearly isolated online. What does that mean for the internet's future?

China and Russia are joining forces to spread disinformation
https://www.brookings.edu/techstream/china-and-russia-are-joining-forces-to-spread-disinformation/

Anonymous declared a ‘cyber war’ against Russia. Here are the results
https://www.cnbc.com/2022/03/16/what-has-anonymous-done-to-russia-here-are-the-results-.html

China censors online Ukraine debate, bars calls for peace
https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/china-censors-online-ukraine-debate-bars-calls-for-peace

What does the invasion of Ukraine mean for IoT security?

Germany issues hacking warning for users of Russian anti-virus software Kaspersky
https://www.reuters.com/technology/germany-issues-hacking-warning-users-russian-anti-virus-soft-

ware-kaspersky-2022-03-15/

The TechStream newsletter: Russia's darkening tech landscape
https://www.brookings.edu/techstream/the-techstream-newsletter-russias-darkening-tech-landscape/

In-Depth: Why haven't the Russians launched more cyber attacks in Ukraine?
ukraine

US spy agency probes sabotage of satellite internet

Understanding Russia's “Sovereign Internet”: What Happens If Russia Isolates Itself from the Global Internet?

Ukraine detains ‘hacker’ accused of aiding Russian troops amid broader struggle to secure communications

In Ukraine, hacktivists fight back with data leaks

Russian Isolation Spells Trouble for Global Cybersecurity
security
IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

For more on this theme:

Critical Infrastructure Threat as Ransomware Groups Target ‘Enemies of Russia’

Top Ukrainian cyber official praises volunteer hacks on Russian targets, offers updates
https://www.cyberscoop.com/it-army-ukraine-caddywiper-viasat/

What China’s Social Media Is Saying About Ukraine
https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/03/china-xi-ukraine-war-america/627028/

Tracking Cyber Operations and Actors in the Russia-Ukraine War

Blue, yellow and gray zone: The cyber factor in Ukraine

The Russia-Ukraine War: Is cyber the next battleground?
https://securityboulevard.com/2022/03/the-russia-ukraine-war-is-cyber-the-next-battleground/

Is Beijing Learning from Russia?
https://amac.us/is-beijing-learning-from-russia/

Russian Hackers Are Targeting American Oil Refineries

Understanding The Impact Of The Russia-Ukraine Conflict On Cybersecurity

How cloud services become weapons in Russia-Ukraine cyber conflict
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Oligarchs have shaped our view of Russia, but it's Putin's corrupt elite that has hamstrung him in Ukraine war
Patrick Cockburn – iNews: 15 March 2022

Analysis: If the Russian leader's army is performing poorly, it may be because his soldiers don't want to get killed for a ruling class with mansions in Belgravia.
https://inews.co.uk/news/oligarchs-vladimir-putin-russia-corrupt-elite-ukraine-war-yachts-mansions-1518721

For more on this theme:

Beyond Censorship: How China amplifies propaganda for Russia's distorted version of the war in Ukraine

Russia's Exit from Western Dominated Organizations — Consequences Far from Certain

China Balances Position on Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Russia's war on Ukraine spotlights critical energy infrastructure

Vladimir Putin Encourages Foreign Fighters To Join Russia in Ukraine

Russia-Ukraine war: Key things to know about the conflict
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-kyiv-business-europe-evacuations-7ca3bd-35b0e68d6b1b85221406b32d89

What civilian satellites are revealing about the war in Ukraine

‘Putin will get desperate — expect more atrocities’ — Russian invasion of Ukraine analysis by Paul Knott
https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/putin-desperate-expect-more-atrocities-6794939

Four Short Term Scenarios In The Russia-Ukraine Conflict – Analysis

How Will the Ukraine War End? 10 Experts Weigh In
https://www.newsweek.com/russia-ukraine-zelensky-putin-war-diplomacy-biden-end-1689114

How Will the Ukraine War End? Here Are Two Possibilities
https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2022-03-17/how-will-the-ukraine-war-end-heres-two-possibilities
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Analysis: Russia’s military is out of its depth in Ukraine. Was Putin kept in the dark about its weaknesses?

Russian Success or Failure in Ukraine Will Define Global Security for Decades
https://newlinesinstitution.org/russia/russian-success-or-failure-in-ukraine-will-define-global-security-for-decades/

Hopes rise for Ukraine talks, but experts doubt Russia will pull out
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/16/hopes-rise-for-ukraine-talks-but-experts-doubt-russia-will-pull-out

3 ways Russia showed military ‘incompetence’ in Ukraine invasion: Analysis

Not just Putin: Most Russians support the war in Ukraine

4 Falsehoods Russians Are Told About the War
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0fXEXZ1VyM

China will define the next phase of the Russia-Ukraine war — and the shifting world order

This was supposed to be Xi Jinping’s big year. Instead, he’s dealing with Covid and war

Public Expresses Mixed Views of U.S. Response to Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine

Ukrainian military successes force Belarus to rethink role in Putin’s war

Fear, Solidarity And Calls For Further Action In The Baltics As Russia Invades Ukraine

The Global Struggle for Power in the Shadow of the Russia Ukraine War
https://politicstoday.org/global-struggle-for-power-russia-ukraine-war/

Latvia’s First Response To Russia’s War In Ukraine – Analysis
https://www.fpri.org/article/2022/03/latvias-first-response-to-russias-war-in-ukraine/
 RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Here's how we know sanctions are hurting Russia

Will the EU start to take Ukraine's membership seriously?
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/10/will-the-eu-start-to-take-ukraines-membership-seriously

The Russia-Ukraine Crisis Will Hurt South Asia – Analysis

Russia Crisis Military Assessment: The weapons Ukraine needs most to win the war

This is how the Ukrainian troops are holding up against the Russian invasion

Mapping financial countermeasures against Russian aggression: Introducing the Brookings Sanctions Tracker
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2022/03/14/mapping-the-economic-countermeasures-against-russian-aggression-introducing-the-brookings-sanctions-tracker/

How will Russia's invasion of Ukraine affect MENA?
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/analysis/how-will-russias-invasion-ukraine-affect-mena

Vladimir Putin has almost no chance of successfully occupying Ukraine

Why Russia is using increasingly brutal tactics in Ukraine
https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/why-russia-is-using-increasingly-brutal-tactics-in-ukraine

The Ukraine Crisis and Latin America's response

Russian Invasion May Plunge Ukraine Into Devastating Recession: IMF

Russia Not Winning, Ukraine Not Losing: What Experts Said On War Outcomes

Hacked news program and deepfake video spread false Zelenskyy claims

Ukraine May Force Middle Eastern Rivals To Upgrade Their Toolkit – Analysis