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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

**Young people identify corruption as emerging Europe's biggest problem**
*Craig Turp – Emerging Europe: 19 March 2019*

A recent survey indicates that youths across Central and Eastern Europe believe that corruption is the largest problem in the region. More than two-thirds of respondents cited graft as a major problem.


**Blockchain fights corrupt African regimes. The bitter war for integrity**
*Steve Kaaru – Coin Geek: 20 March 2019*

Crypto currency and blockchain technology have the potential to radically transform Africa by combating corruption and promoting transparency. Fifteen of the world’s 25 most corrupt countries are in Africa.

https://coingeek.com/blockchain-fights-corrupt-african-regimes-the-bitter-war-for-integrity/

*For more on this theme:*

- **Lopez Obrador Insists on Maintaining Fight against Corruption**
  https://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=39745&SEO=lopez-obrador-insists-to-main-
  tain-fight-against-corruption

- **Corruption Sinks a Nation and May Turn a Comedian Into President**
  ukraine-s-election

- **Arrests in Cameroon for Corruption, or Challenges to Biya?**

- **8 female anti-corruption fighters who inspire us**
  https://voices.transparency.org/8-female-anti-corruption-fighters-who-inspire-us-f433751cd3cf

- **The ethnic language of corruption in Kenya**

- **Corruption fighter tipped as Europe’s first prosecutor**

- **Does corruption cause crisis – or does crisis breed corruption?**
  ruption/

- **Corruption in Russia's Military Quadrupled in 2018, Prosecutors Say**
  tors-say-a64907

- **Japanese Olympic chief to quit amid corruption allegations scandal**
  https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/19/japan-olympic-committee-president-tsunekazu-take-
  da-to-resign-corruption-allegations-scandal
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug trafficking and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh
Sreeparna Banerjee – Observer Research Foundation: 15 March 2019

Horrible conditions inside refugee camps in Bangladesh have brought about the perfect environment for recruiting Rohingya refugees as traffickers of the methamphetamine known as yaba. Bangladesh has become a big market for traffickers who source the drug from factories in lawless northeastern Burma.


How to Save America from the Fentanyl Flow
David Luna and Earl Anthony Wayne – The National Interest: 17 March 2019

As fentanyl deaths grow within the U.S., the government must work with key nations to stop the flow of the deadly drug. America needs to work with China, Mexico and Canada to ensure the drug manufacturing, trafficking and usage is curtailed, both through bilateral negotiations and through a new four-way framework.

https://nationalinterest.org/feature/how-save-america-fentanyl-flow-47637

For more on this theme:

Daphne Bramham: As the opioid crisis grinds on, we need national consensus on drug policy

Marijuana legalization must make War on Drugs’ victims whole before companies profit
https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/marijuana-legalization-must-make-war-drugs-victims-whole-companies-profit-ncna981391

New Mexico might become first in nation to endorse state-run medical marijuana shops

Fewer opioid deaths: Are drug dealers improving outcomes for their clients?
https://www.aei.org/publication/fewer-opioid-deaths-are-drug-dealers-improving-outcomes-for-their-clients/

Why Japan Is So Strict About Drugs

Indians are buying and selling heroin, cocaine & ganja online, and UN is worried
https://theprint.in/governance/indians-are-buying-and-selling-heroin-cocaine-ganja-online-and-un-is-worried/201923/  

‘Militias are Involved in Drug Trafficking and Operate in Rio’s Wealthy Districts’
http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=51875
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Corruption and illegal deforestation go hand in hand
Brice Böhmer and Marie-Ange Kalenga – Transparency International: 21 March 2019
Some of the world’s most forested nations are also some of the most corrupt. The illegal ravaging of these forests goes perfectly with officials looking to make a quick buck.

How Advanced Technology Can Help Save Wildlife, And The Companies Behind Them
Prableen Bajpai – Nasdaq: 18 March 2019
Using artificial intelligence technology could help arrest the rampant trafficking of wildlife across the globe. Companies are developing new technology to help governments catch wildlife traffickers.

For more on this theme:
Illegal killing of birds in Europe continues
http://science.sciencemag.org/content/363/6432/1161.1

People motivated to join fight against illegal wildlife trade

Rare Namibian hardwood trees face the chop
https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2019-03-12-rare-namibian-hardwood-trees-face-the-chop/

This Songbird Is Nearly Extinct in the Wild. An International Treaty Could Help Save It — but Won’t.

China’s Ivory Ban: A Work in Progress
https://thediplomat.com/2019/03/chinas-ivory-ban-a-work-in-progress/

The Wild Animal Trade is a Roaring Business in Pakistan

Scientists Estimate There Are Just 10 Vaquita Porpoises Left in Existence

Hunting poachers with Perth’s rhino warrior

Why wildlife criminals are targeting UK birds of prey

Nigeria: How We Bribed Smugglers to Gain Freedom From Captivity - Customs Personnel
https://allafrica.com/stories/201903180426.html
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Drug gangs drive huge rise in UK child slavery cases
Kieran Guilbert – Reuters: 20 March 2019

The number of people being trafficked or forced into slavery in Britain has skyrocketed — fueled by gangs forcing vulnerable children to become drug mules.

Myanmar: Women, Girls Trafficked as ‘Brides’ to China
Human Rights Watch: 21 March 2019

Authorities on both sides of the border have failed to stop the trafficking of hundreds of women from Myanmar, also known as Burma, to China, says a new report by Human Rights Watch.

For more on this theme:
EU Says Global Compact Doesn’t Create Legal Right for Migration

Voice against trafficking
https://www.telegraphindia.com/states/west-bengal/voice-against-trafficking/cid/1686816

What Is Human Trafficking, and How Can Technology Combat It?
https://www.newswise.com/articles/what-is-human-trafficking-and-how-can-technology-combat-it

Mexico’s new govt to scrutinize ‘failing’ anti-trafficking strategy

Ukraine, Slovenia to combat human trafficking together

New Screening Tool Aims to Identify Trafficking Victims
https://www.govtech.com/health/New-Screening-Tool-Aims-to-Identify-Trafficking-Victims.html

The EU claims the migrant crisis is over in Europe — that doesn’t mean it’s over

The continuing tragedy of migrants in Libya
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2019/03/18/the-continuing-tragedy-of-migrants-in-libya/

Target traffickers’ cash to compensate victims, lawmakers urge UK
http://news.trust.org/item/20190321151417-0dbfp/
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The global rise of Internet sovereignty
Eduard Saakashvili – Coda: 21 March 2019

China and Russia want the global internet to look more like their internets. Some argue they are beginning to succeed.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Massacre livestream tests internet governance
http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1142555.shtml

(South America) Colombia & Other Amazon Countries Go To ICANN To Keep .amazon Domain Name From Amazon.com

(Africa) Uganda is Hosting Africa Internet Summit in June

INTERNET FREEDOM

Internet Blacklisting Is Taking Off Across The World
Kalev Leetaru – Forbes: 21 March 2019

Internet filtering has grown in usage over the past several years. Most recently, it was used by New Zealand to restrict access to the Christchurch massacre videos. But as the practice grows, will governments use it to censor content they want to hide?


For more on this theme:

(Africa) These 27 African countries have never experienced internet shutdown
https://www.pulse.ng/bi/politics/these-27-african-countries-have-never-experienced-internet-shutdown/c4pk2b6

(Egypt) Egypt Intensifies Internet Censorship by Blocking Social Media Accounts

(EU) Major EU Websites Go Dark With #Blackout21 Protest Ahead of Vote to Create Internet ‘Censorship Machine’
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

U.S. top court jeopardizes Google settlement in internet privacy case
Andrew Chung – Reuters: 20 March 2019
The U.S. Supreme Court is questioning the $8.5 million settlement Google made with users to resolve a class action privacy lawsuit.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Does the future of big data mean Big Brother politics?
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/information-age/future-big-data/

(Global) The Internet of Things Is Here, And Privacy Has Some Catching Up to Do

(Global) Why Facebook’s Latest Privacy Snafu Is Particularly Gross
https://slate.com/technology/2019/03/facebook-password-privacy-plain-text-lite-security.html

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

There Are Too Many Red Lines in Cyberspace
Max Smeets – Lawfare: 20 March 2019
As state actors continue to meddle in our cyber affairs, countries around the globe have grown frustrated. In the U.S., analysts believe the problem is that there are not enough “red lines” defining acceptable behavior and that the U.S. fails to enforce those that are there. The author disagrees with this assessment and argues that there are too many red lines.
https://www.lawfareblog.com/there-are-too-many-red-lines-cyberspace

For more on this theme:
(Taiwan) Inside Taiwan’s new digital democracy

(Armenia) Armenia Needs a Comprehensive Approach to E-Governance
https://armenianweekly.com/2019/03/14/armenia-needs-a-comprehensive-approach-to-e-governance/

(U.S.) An Inside Look at New York State Government Cybersecurity
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Nielsen calls for greater public-private collaboration on cyber threats
Jacqueline Thomsen – The Hill: 19 March 2019

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said the federal government needs the private sector to detect and deter emerging cyber threats.


For more on this theme:

(Hong Kong) Hong Kong Secretary for Innovation and Technology: continued focus on cybersecurity
https://www.opengovasia.com/hong-kong-it-official-promises-continued-focus-on-cybersecurity/

(U.S.) Washington Lawmakers Struggle to Close Rural Internet Gaps

(U.S.) USTelecom: Reinventing broadband mapping is needed to close the digital divide

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Vietnam ‘State-Aligned’ Hackers Are Targeting Auto Firms, FireEye Says
John Boudreau – Bloomberg: 20 March 2019

Vietnamese “state-aligned” hackers are targeting foreign automotive companies in attacks that appear to support the country’s vehicle manufacturing goals, according to cyber security company FireEye Inc.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., China) US–China commercial espionage will crush prospects for technology cooperation
https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2019/03/18/us-china-commercial-espionage-will-crush-prospects-for-technology-cooperation/

(U.S.) Cyber Espionage Puts Research Universities at Risk (EdTech Magazine)
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

For Africa, Chinese-Built Internet Is Better Than No Internet at All
Amy Mackinnon – Foreign Policy: 19 March 2019

Despite Western concerns about security, African nations have embraced Chinese firm Huawei. The company has built nearly 70 percent of the continent’s 4G networks and is helping Africans get and stay connected.

https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/03/19/for-africa-chinese-built-internet-is-better-than-no-internet-at-all/

For more on this theme:
(Vietnam) Bridging the digital divide requires new forms of education, training

(U.S.) Defense Alone Won’t Stop Cyber Threat To U.S. Finance

(Israel) Cyber Bill Would Give Netanyahu Unsupervised Powers, Experts Warn

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Criminals could be secretly mining cryptocurrency on your computer, especially if you live in Asia Pacific: Microsoft study
Jessica Lin – Business Insider: 22 March 2019

The Asia-Pacific region continues to attract cyber criminals despite investments in the latest security technology, according to a study by Microsoft.


For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Deterring Adversaries in Cyberspace
https://www.lawfareblog.com/deterring-adversaries-cyberspace

(Global) This updated trojan malware campaign targets fintech and cryptocurrency trading companies

(Global) Cyber Crime Competes Against the Good Guys for Talent
INFORMATION SHARING

**Canada, EU share ways to blunt hybrid threats**
*Howard Solomon – IT World Canada: 21 March 2019*

Canada and the European Union are working together to mitigate threats to their critical infrastructure systems and elections.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Defending America’s Critical Infrastructure Will Take ‘Whole of Nation’
https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2019/03/defending-americas-critical-infrastructure-will-take-whole-nation/155755/

(Global) Taming Global Cybersecurity Risks Requires a Concerted Cyber Resilience Effort

(Global) Not All Information is Equal
https://www.randomlengthsnews.com/2019/03/21/not-all-information-is-equal/

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**Cyberattacks: Europe gets ready to face crippling online assaults**
*Steve Ranger – ZDNet: 21 March 2019*

Researchers at cyber security firm FireEye say Kremlin-backed hacking operations are aiming at governments, media and political parties as elections approach.

https://www.zdnet.com/article/cyber-attacks-europe-gets-ready-to-face-crippling-online-assaults/

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) How the Energy Department is Prioritizing Secure Infrastructure

(Norway, Global) The Norsk Hydro cyber attack is about money, not war
https://www.wired.co.uk/article/norsk-hydro-cyber-attack

(Global) Temasek’s Ensign, US partner launch centre for cyber defence of critical infrastructure
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

The Evolution of ISIS: From a Rogue State to a Tiny Sliver

After rising from the ashes to become a rogue state, ISIS is now a sliver of its former self. But while ISIS may be down, it is not out.

In Mosul’s enduring rubble, fertile soil for an ISIS revival?
Scott Peterson – Christian Science Monitor: 13 March 2019

With little change over the past two years since ISIS was routed, Mosul remains extremely vulnerable to an ISIS uprising.

For more on this theme:
ISIS Spokesman: ‘What’s Our Crime? We Just Wanted to Apply Sharia.’

Explainer: Does Islamic State still pose a threat?

Unpacked: Islamic State

The questions that linger after declaring the defeat of ISIS
https://thearabweekly.com/questions-linger-after-declaring-defeat-isis

Philippines Hopes Islamist Group ‘Neutralized’ After De Facto Leader Killed

Down, but definitely not out: on future of the Islamic State
https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/down-but-definitely-not-out/article26525342.ece

Timeline: The rise and fall of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria

Iraq’s new war against Islamic State: Halting the group’s budding rural resurgence
https://warisboring.com/iraqs-new-war-against-islamic-state-halting-the-groups-budding-rural-resurgence/

ISIS appears ready to accept defeat in Syria in new video from inside Baghouz
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Why is Al Shabab making inroads into Kenya?
TRT World: 17 March 2019

Al-Shabaab, the Somali-based branch of al-Qaida, has been using economic hardship and hopelessness to recruit in Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan and other East African countries, recruiting hundreds if not thousands of fighters.
https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/why-is-al-shabab-making-inroads-into-kenya-24981

Syria Is Still a Hotbed for Extremists
Manish Rai – International Policy Digest: 22 March 2019

While ISIS may no longer hold territory in Syria, that doesn’t mean extremism no longer reigns supreme in portions of the country. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an al-Qaida affiliate formerly known as al-Nusrah Front, is rapidly expanding its territory in Idlib province. It has overrun 75 percent of an area held by the armed Syrian opposition.
https://intpolicydigest.org/2019/03/22/syria-is-still-a-hotbed-for-extremists/

For more on this theme:
Somalia: Senior Al-Shabaab Commander Reportedly Captured in Mogadishu
https://allafrica.com/stories/201903200664.html

Why the Taliban should be required to renounce al Qaeda in any deal with US

‘A lion from the den’: Hamza bin Laden in global crosshairs as influence grows

Islamist Insurgencies Feed Age-Old West African Conflicts

“If you take Tramadol away, you make Boko Haram weak.”
https://africanarguments.org/2019/03/15/if-you-take-tramadol-away-you-make-boko-haram-weak/

Mullah Omar and the art of hiding in plain sight

US-Taliban Talks: To What End?

Hamas violently suppresses Gaza economic protests
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Trump Says ISIS Is Defeated. Reality Says Otherwise.
Charles Lister – Politico: 18 March 2019

Unless the world changes course, the children of ISIS will grow up radicalized and be a threat for generations to come.
https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2019/03/18/trump-isis-terrorists-defeated-foreign-policy-225816

Do counter-narratives actually reduce violent extremism?
Eric Rosand and Emily Winterbotham – Brookings: 20 March 2019

A common strategy when fighting terrorist groups is to attack the ideology through counter-narratives. This strategy has been widely adopted in the wake of the ISIS uprising. But does it actually work?
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2019/03/20/do-counter-narratives-actually-reduce-violent-extremism/

For more on this theme:
Hard-Core Islamic State Members Carry Ideology From Crushed Caliphate

Analysts: IS Ideology Still a Threat Despite Setbacks

Why social media and terrorism make a perfect fit

Terrorism bred online requires anticipatory, not reactionary coverage

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Upload filters and one-hour takedowns: the EU’s latest fight against terrorism online, explained
Jon Porter – The Verge: 21 March 2019

The European Union is working to stop terrorist activities online through legislation that would hold the big tech companies accountable for spreading terrorist-related content.

For more on this theme:
CYBERCOM wants money for its anti-ISIS efforts
https://www.fifthdomain.com/dod/cybercom/2019/03/19/cybercom-wants-money-for-its-anti-isis-efforts/

Counter-Terrorism and Humanitarian Action: The Perils of Zero Tolerance
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Who bears responsibility for the Children of ISIS?
Jennifer Percival and Rodger Shanahan – The Interpreter: 21 March 2019
As the U.S. declares victory over ISIS, the question remains: What does the world do with the minor children of these ISIS fighters? Determining who should be responsible is not an easy task because identities and nationalities are difficult to discern.

Foreign nationals suspected of Isis links 'not wanted' in Syrian camps
Kate Hodal and Bethan McKernan – The Guardian: 19 March 2019
An estimated 7,000 women and children are struggling to find a place in refugee camps that want nothing to do with them because of their ISIS affiliations.

For more on this theme:
Bosnia to bring back captured ISIS fighters from Syria
https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/bosnia-to-bring-back-captured-isis-fighters-from-syria/
Malaysia Wants to Allow Citizens Who Joined ISIS to Return Home Under These Conditions
https://www.worldofbuzz.com/malaysia-wants-to-allow-citizens-who-joined-isis-to-return-home-under-these-conditions/
Explainer: How can the return of Islamic State members to their home countries work?
No IS Kids Left Behind: Tajikistan To Repatriate Dozens Of Islamic State Children From Iraq
The women of ISIS are more than just brides
https://www.pri.org/stories/2019-03-14/women-isis-are-more-just-brides
The orphans of ISIS
From the Lion's Den to London: The Repatriation of ISIS Children
France repatriates 5 children of ISIS fighters from Syria
https://thedefensepost.com/2019/03/15/france-repatriates-isis-children-syria/
After Baghouz, what do you do with ISIS families?
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

WATER SECURITY

Water is a growing source of global conflict. Here’s what we need to do
Kitty van der Heiijden and Callie Stinson – World Economic Forum: 18 March 2019

Water-related insecurity is not yet taken seriously despite how easily it can exacerbate tensions within societies and between countries because of the essential role it plays. What does it take for water risks to be on the agenda?

For more on this theme:

Water security in South Africa: forgotten but not gone

Water Source Partnerships critical for South Africa’s future water security

Answering the water wake-up call
https://news.northwestern.edu/nation-and-world/water-security/

How Often Do You Worry About Water?

Water, Conflict, and Peacebuilding: A New Animated Short from the Wilson Center and USAID

As global water crisis looms, business as usual is no longer an option

Saudi Arabia Revamps Water Security Plans

Millions In The Himalayan Region Are Looking At A Grim Water Future: Study
https://www.huffingtonpost.in/entry/millions-in-the-himalayan-region-are-looking-at-a-grim-water-future-study_in_5c949d0e4b01ebeef0db936

Migration and Water in the Middle East and North Africa (February 2019)

Climate change threatens U.K. with fresh water shortage within 25 years

From Scarcity to Security: Managing Water for a Nutritious Food Future