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CORRUPTION

Peru’s Wise-Man President Toppled by Corruption He Had Pledged to End
Ethan Bronner and Ben Bartenstein – Bloomberg: 21 March 2018

Peru’s president has resigned after 19 months in office. Facing allegations of corruption and vote buying, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski stepped down a day before the Peruvian Congress planned to fire him.


How investigative journalists helped turn the tide against corruption in SA
Anton Harber – Times Live: 22 March 2018

Over the past few years, South African journalists have been investigating and reporting on the culture of corruption in South Africa. It was largely due to their tireless efforts that the anti-corruption movement has gained momentum.


For more on this theme:

Exporting corruption: Beyond Brazil’s Car Wash scandal

Thailand’s corruption ‘too ingrained in society to fix’ according to poll

Sarkozy charged with corruption over alleged Gaddafi financing
https://www.thelocal.fr/20180322/sarkozy-charged-with-corruption-over-alleged-kadhafi-financing

Banking inquiry has already exposed shocking corruption – but it needs more time
https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/2018/mar/22/banking-inquiry-has-already-exposed-shocking-corruption-but-it-needs-more-time

Eliminating corruption in Africa is a tall order for anyone seeking to do so
https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001274059/eliminating-corruption-in-africa-is-a-tall-order-for-anyone-seeking-to-do-so

Anti-corruption in Romania: Cause or Crusade?
https://www.neweurope.eu/article/anti-corruption-romania-cause-crusade/

Investigating land and corruption in Africa: training manual for journalists

Romania picks fight with Brussels over corruption monitoring
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Colombia is trying to root out the cocaine trade, but farmers are relying on it as an ‘insurance policy’
Christopher Woody – Business Insider: 22 March 2018

Colombia is facing increasing cocaine production even as its peace treaty with the rebel group FARC takes effect. Government efforts to convince farmers to plant other crops have largely failed, and criminal groups maintain pressure on farmers to grow coca.

Norway's drug policies ‘could set example for rest of the world’
Shehab Khan – The Independent: 22 March 2018

Norway has taken steps to focus on drugs as a public health issue instead of a legal one. This tactic could be used as a model for countries looking to reduce drug usage and treat addicts rather than penalize them.

For more on this theme:

Once an Outlier, Portugal’s Progressive Drug Policy Is Now a Model
https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/trend-lines/24372/once-an-outlier-portugal-s-progressive-drug-policy-is-now-a-model

Colombia’s counter-narcotics efforts on brink of failure: farmers
https://colombiareports.com/colombia-counter-narcotics-on-brink-of-failure-farmers/

War on drugs has failed - Helen Clark
https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/353154/war-on-drugs-has-failed-helen-clark

President Trump on New Policy to Combat Opioid Epidemic

Inside the dark web drug trade
https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/longform/the-new-frontier-of-the-drug-trade

EU Backs Ghana In Drug Trafficking Combat

Latin America Falls Short on Anti-Crime Efforts: US State Department

Attorney General Jeff Sessions outlines when to use death penalty on drug traffickers

Nigeria’s Strict Drug Policy Risks Falling Out of Step in West Africa
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

How the Illegal Wildlife Trade Is Related to Infectious Disease and Why This Poses a Deadly Risk to Humans
William Miller – One Green Planet: 20 March 2018

The horrible animal abuse, population decimation and fueling of criminal organizations are just some of the concerns with wildlife trafficking. But one issue is often overlooked: Infectious diseases can spread through this illegal trade, putting entire animal populations — including humans — at significant risk.


This Nonprofit Is Using Gunshot-Detection Tech to Fight Illegal Deforestation
Sidney Fussell – Gizmodo: 22 March 2018

Rainforest Connection, a San Francisco nonprofit, has developed a cheap, rigorous acoustic monitoring system made from modified cellphones and solar panels. An app on the so-called Guardian devices, which can be hidden in trees throughout forests, continuously listens for the telltale signs of illegal logging and animal poaching

https://gizmodo.com/this-nonprofit-is-using-gunshot-detection-tech-to-fight-1823997516

For more on this theme:

How tourists can help prevent wildlife trafficking and poaching
https://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/travel/2018/03/20/how-tourists-can-help-prevent-wildlife-trafficking-and-poaching/s1YY0F4FeUkRmZGr3RxN/story.html

No room for wildlife crime

Cash before conservation: A damning report on the commoditization of lions

Activists stage high-tech anti-trafficking war
https://www.shine.cn/feature/lifestyle/1803181782/

Singapore tanneries: Africa’s largest market for reptile skins in Asia

Paradigm shift as African countries throw their weight behind ivory ban

Surveillance centre to help SA authorities curb illegal fishing
http://ewn.co.za/2018/03/19/surveillance-centre-to-help-sa-authorities-curb-illegal-fishing

Illegal logging of Ipê tree is causing irreversible damage to the Amazon
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Is UN’s Ambitious Global Compact the Last Word on the Migrant Crisis?
*Thalif Deen – Inter Press Service: 16 March 2018*

Governments from around the world met for the second round of negotiations on the global compact on migration. Some sticking points remain, but progress is being made toward a global compact on migration.


‘Need to address human trafficking in IT Act’
*The Hindu: 21 March 2018*

India is raising the issue of human trafficking and its intersection with cyber platforms. The country is witnessing an uptick in the online recruiting of victims and wants to address the issue in its Information Technology Act.


For more on this theme:

How African Governments Can Tackle the Migration Crisis
http://weblog.iom.int/how-african-governments-can-tackle-migration-crisis

EU seeks another €3bn Turkey migrant deal
https://euobserver.com/migration/141322

Hong Kong’s new human trafficking action plan – a rhetorical manoeuvre or reason for hope?

British embassy holds anti-human trafficking workshop for Egyptian police
http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/293235/Egypt/Politics/-British-embassy-holds-anti-human-trafficking-worksh.aspx

If we’re serious about ending human trafficking, listen to survivors
https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-if-were-serious-about-ending-human-trafficking-listen-to-survivors/

UN Migration Agency Receives Emergency Funding to Provide Assistance to Migrants, Refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina
http://www.iom.int/news/un-migration-agency-receives-emergency-funding-provide-assistance-migrants-refugees-bosnia-and

Vessel held in Pozzallo as migration rows begin

Migrants Captured In Libya Say They End Up Sold As Slaves
https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2018/03/21/595497429/migrants-passing-through-libya-could-end-up-being-sold-as-slaves
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

What Is the Digital Society We Want to Build Together?
Paul Fehlinger – Council on Foreign Relations: 20 March 2018

In Ottawa, Canada, earlier this month, governments from around the world gathered to discuss the global governance challenge of norms and laws on the internet.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/what-digital-society-we-want-build-together

For more on this theme:

(Global) It's Time to Regulate the Internet

(Global) Why wait for the elusive tipping point in cyber?
https://idsa.in/idsacomments/why-wait-for-the-elusive-tipping-point-in-cyber_csamuel_210318

(ASEAN) Region needs rules, norms to tackle cyber threats: PM

INTERNET FREEDOM

Censorship in China Turns Social Media Into Tool of Repression
Paul Huang – The Epoch Times: 21 March 2018

A new report indicates that China’s Great Firewall is getting “taller,” and China is tightening its grip on the internet through increasing censorship and punitive measures for dissenters.


Full report:
Forbidden Feeds: Government Controls on Social Media in China
https://pen.org/forbidden-feeds/

For more on this theme:

(Nicaragua) Nicaragua's proposed social media controls follow dictatorship handbook

(Egypt) Netizen Report: Internet Censorship Bills Loom Large Over Egypt
https://advocacy.globalvoices.org/2018/03/16/netizen-report-internet-censorship-bill-looms-large-over-egypt/

(U.S.) Senate passes sex-trafficking bill that may lead to online censorship
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Europe’s New Privacy Law Will Change the Web, and More
Nitasha Tiku – Wired: 19 March 2018

Europe’s coming privacy law, the General Data Protection Regulation, focuses on ensuring that users know, understand and consent to the data collected about them. The law requires companies to disclose what information they are collecting and how they plan to use it. Users will be allowed access to the personal data that companies collect about them and to correct inaccurate information.


For more on this theme:
(EU) EU e-privacy proposal risks breaking ‘Internet of Things’
https://euobserver.com/digital/141302

(Global) This Is Exactly How Much Your Personal Information Is Worth to Facebook

(China) Apple must warn about China privacy risk, says Amnesty International

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

China’s quest for political control and military supremacy in the cyber domain
Elsa Kania – Australian Strategic Policy Institute: 16 March 2018

China is marrying its cyber policy with its military in more ways than one. The government sees cyber security as paramount to state security and national security. The People’s Liberation Army plans to engage in a “military struggle” in the cyber domain and play a role in censorship and propaganda.


For more on this theme:
(ASEAN) Can ASEAN Continue to Improve Cybersecurity in the Region and Beyond?
https://www.cfr.org/blog/can-asean-continue-improve-cybersecurity-region-and-beyond

(U.S., Russia) Cyber war with Russia and other rogue states is a ‘very real threat’, warns Sunderland University professor
http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/16103779.Cyber_war_with_Russia_and_other_rogue_states_is_a___39_very_real_threat___39__warns_professor_and_computer_security_expert/

(U.S.) How the U.S. Can Play Cyber-Offense
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Public-private cybersecurity centre open for business in Sydney
Asha McLean – ZDNet: 20 March 2018

Australia’s Joint Cyber Security Centre program is adding a facility in Adelaide later this year, building on the four other centers already open in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Cities have a way to expand internet access, and want the state to let them try it

(India) India requires a better fibre network to increase bandwidth delivery and internet speeds to people: TRAI

(Canada) Feds, Ontario, Quebec announce $400 million 5G public-private partnership

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Response To Cybercrime, A Key Challenge For Businesses: Study
CXOtoday: 15 March 2018

According to the Ponemon Institute, 77 percent of business respondents do not have a formal cyber security incident response plan. But the survey also indicated that the businesses believe they are more cyber resilient than they were last year.
http://www.cxotoday.com/story/response-to-cybercrime-a-key-challenge-for-businesses-study/

Full report:
The Third Annual Study on the Cyber Resilient Organization

For more on this theme:
(Global) The theft of tea leaves and the evolution of cyber espionage prevention

(U.S., China) U.S. Targeted by Suspected Chinese Cyber Espionage Group, FireEye Research Warns

(U.S., China) Trump Slaps China With $60 Billion in Tariffs
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

India’s Booming Cloud Market Is Set To Be Worth $4.1 Billion By 2020 – Here’s Why
Prakash Mallya – Forbes: 23 March 2018

Public cloud computing in India has seen exponential growth, and experts predict the $1.8 billion industry will grow to $4.1 billion by 2020. India is second only to China as the largest and fastest-growing cloud services market in the Indo-Pacific region.


For more on this theme:
(Thailand) Cashless welfare cards, free Internet may yield data to improve Thai governance
(India) Over 44,000 people trained in Information Security
(U.K.) Stronger government leadership needed if UK is to thrive in the IoT economy
https://government.diginomica.com/2018/03/19/1370369/

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Cryptojacking is becoming a real menace
Stan Schroeder – Mashable: 22 March 2018

Cryptojacking — hijacking a personal computer to mine cryptocurrencies — is rapidly emerging as the latest cyber threat. The recent “Internet Security Threat Report” from cyber security company Symantec found that detections of coin miners on endpoint computers had increased by 8,500 percent in 2017.


For more on this theme:
(Global) Does your mobile strategy leave you open to cyber-crime?
(Global) Looking for a New Gig? How About Cyber Crime Spy School?
(Canada) Canadian small businesses ‘woefully outgunned’ in battle with cybercrime: experts
INFORMATION SHARING

5 Universities partner to combat cyber security threats
The Associated Press: 22 March 2018

Five universities in the United States — Indiana, Nebraska-Lincoln, Northwestern, Rutgers and Purdue — have banded together to fight cyber security threats with OmniSOC, a cyber security operations center that will provide real-time intelligence sharing and threat analysis for its members.

https://apnews.com/5390ea09fb6f45ae9e9794ce9323da02/5-universities-partner-to-combat-cyber-security-threats

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) In wake of ransomware attacks, North Carolina launches new cyber unit

(U.S.) Information Sharing: 15 Years of ISAC Partnerships in Protecting Cyber, Physical Infrastructure Security

(U.S.) NH-ISAC Accelerates Cyber Threat Sharing for Healthcare Industry

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Russia Hacked U.S. Power Grid — So What Will The Trump Administration Do About It?
Brian Naylor – NPR: 23 March 2018

With the recent revelations that Russia conducted cyber attacks against the U.S. power grid, the world is anxious to see how the U.S. will respond. Any response must be carefully calculated, but it is ultimately up to President Donald Trump to decide.


For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Critical Infrastructure: Stop Whistling Past the Cyber Graveyard

(U.S., Russia) Five things to know about Russian attacks on the energy grid

(U.S.) Here Are Some Key Challenges to Critical Infrastructure Security
http://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2018/03/here-are-some-key-challenges-critical-infrastructure-security/146737/
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

How the Islamic State got a foothold in Afghanistan
Examining how ISIS got started in Afghanistan and where it stands now is the focus of this article. Though ISIS isn’t as powerful as the Taliban in Afghanistan, it is a force that must be dealt with.

What Poker Tells Us about ISIS’s Changing Strategy
Justin Conrad – Foreign Policy Research Institute: 20 March 2018
Comparing ISIS strategy to poker, the author argues that players with weak hands can turn the tables on stronger opponents. While ISIS is undoubtedly weaker now than it has been, it remains a credible threat.

For more on this theme:
Iraq Will Hang 3,000 Prisoners Over ISIS Links, Report Shows

An ISIS West Africa Faction (Not Boko Haram) Was Responsible For Kidnapping The Dapchi Girls, According To WSJ

The Many Uses Of ISIS In Kashmir – OpEd

Pakistan, Russia express concern over growing ISIS threat

IS suicide bomber kills 33 as Afghans celebrate new year
https://www.apnews.com/1dd475d96e304c94b5f0d4f176b9e878

Islamic State takes Damascus area after rebels pull out: monitor

39 Indian builders confirmed dead after tests on Iraq mass grave
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al-Qaeda 3.0: turning to face the near enemy
Isaac Kfir – Australian Strategic Policy Institute: 22 March 2018

How has al-Qaida morphed and changed over the past several years to once again become a force to be reckoned with? Ayman al-Zawahiri is a different leader than Osama bin Laden, and he focused on three key objectives to rebuild al-Qaida in to its latest version.

From Al-Qaeda to ISIL: Continuity and Change in the Jihadist Movement
Stephen Tankel – War on the Rocks: 22 March 2018

This roundtable discussion with three terrorism experts focuses on where the jihadist movements stand and the threats they pose.

For more on this theme:

Al Qaeda chief says America is the ‘first enemy’ of Muslims

Islamic State and al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent posing new threat: MHA
http://www.deccanherald.com/content/665759/islamic-state-al-qaeda-indian.html

One Month After Abduction, Boko Haram Brings Home More Than 100 Dapchi Girls
https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/03/22/596004048/one-month-after-abduction-boko-haram-brings-home-more-than-100-dapchi-girls

Opinion: Black, Muslim and Unwelcome: Is Europe Facing a Somali ‘Jihad Generation’ Crisis?

Hezbollah terrorism designation up to EU states: Mogherini

Terrorist group Hezbollah release video game aimed at indoctrinating young people to fight ‘the American-Zionist project’
https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/terrorist-group-hezbollah-release-video-12218855

Why Israel is stuck with Hamas
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/03/19/why-israel-is-stuck-with-hamas/
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Evaluating Countering Violent Extremism Programs: Current Practices, Challenges, and a Means Forward
Caitlin Ambrozik – Center for Global Policy: March 2018

Because the reasons each individual is driven to terrorism are as varied as those individuals, it is difficult to design programs to counter violent extremism, and even more difficult to evaluate whether they work. Recent advances in scholarship, however, can help plan and analyze the programs.


Radicalization in the Classroom: A Continuing Problem in European Schools
Abigail R. Esman – The Algemeiner: 21 March 2018

The return of ISIS foreign fighters is not the only worry Europe faces when it comes to radicalization. As has been proven by several high-profile cases, some Muslim youths are being radicalized without leaving the European country they live in, most notably through their schools.


For more on this theme:

UK vows to crackdown on terrorist recruiters

Najib Warns Islamic State May Seek to Recruit Rohingya Muslims

On the Westminster and Brussels attacks anniversary, the EU spotlights three catalysts for radicalization

New anti-radicalization centre in the works for B.C.

New UNESCO chair to focus on prevention of radicalization, extremism

Europe’s terror response: Empowering right partners is key to preventing #radicalization
https://www.eureporter.co/frontpage/2018/03/22/europes-terror-response-empowering-right-partners-is-key-to-preventing-radicalization/

Jailbird Militants, a Security Threat for Europe
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Foreign Wives of Islamic State Fighters Sentenced to Death in Iraq
Heather Murdock – Voice of America: 20 March 2018

Iraq holds 560 foreign wives of ISIS fighters in Iraq, recently sentencing 17 of them to death. While some welcomed the verdict, believing they will become martyrs, the fates of the remaining women and the 900 children with them remains to be seen.


For more on this theme:

When ISIS fighters return home

Amnesty for Islamic State Fighters Is Not the Answer
https://mosaicmagazine.com/picks/2018/03/amnesty-for-islamic-state-fighters-is-not-the-answer/

How Belgium deals with returning jihadist fighters

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Sustaining U.S. Counterterrorism Pressure in Afghanistan
Nicholas A. Glavin – The National Interest: 20 March 2018

To address the threats posed to the United States by ISIS and the Taliban in Afghanistan, the U.S. must continue its aggressive counterterrorism activities.

http://nationalinterest.org/feature/sustaining-us-counterterrorism-pressure-afghanistan-24999

For more on this theme:

INTERPOL counter-terrorism training focuses on social media and criminal intelligence analysis

FBI Agents And The Internet Agree: The Feds Should Call Terrorism What It Is
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/domestic-terrorism-austin-bombing-fbi_us_5ab2da83e4b0decad04899fc

Reassessing Belgium’s ‘Failed’ Counterterrorism Policy
https://www.lawfareblog.com/reassessing-belgiums-failed-counterterrorism-policy