

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Lebanon's central bank chief appears before corruption hearing

Al Jazeera: 16 March 2023

Riad Salameh had previously rejected the presence of European investigators at the hearing, causing it to be postponed.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/16/lebanons-central-bank-chief-appears-before-corruption-hearing>

Cloete Murray: South African corruption investigator shot dead

Samuel Horti – BBC: 20 March 2023

A South African accountant who was investigating high-level corruption cases has been killed along with his son.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-65007942>

For more on this theme:

Venezuela's Maduro to replace oil minister, police arrest officials in corruption sweep

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/venezuelan-police-arrest-mayor-judges-public-official-corruption-state-tv-2023-03-20/>

Dominican police arrest 19 in high-profile corruption case

<https://apnews.com/article/dominican-republic-government-corruption-arrested-3426f9bba84f80495c3414413888671>

South Korean opposition leader indicted for alleged corruption

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2023/3/22/south-korean-opposition-leader-indicted-for-alleged-bribery>

Zhao Weiguo: Chinese regulator accuses chip tycoon of corruption

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65022389>

Mercedes-Benz site searched over suspected corruption – newspaper

<https://www.reuters.com/business/autos-transportation/mercedes-benz-site-searched-over-suspected-corruption-newspaper-2023-03-21/>

Zambian Officials Arrest Auditor General, Others on Corruption Charges

<https://www.voanews.com/a/zambian-officials-arrest-auditor-general-others-on-corruption-charges-/7010542.html>

US: Corruption, gender-based violence of concern in Albania, Kosovo

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/us-corruption-gender-based-violence-of-concern-in-albania-kosovo/>

Iraq PM says fighting corruption and restoring citizens' confidence is his main goal

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/iraq/2023/03/19/iraq-pm-says-fighting-corruption-and-restoring-citizens-confidence-is-his-main-goal/>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

The ‘Deadliest Drug’ In America Explained: How Xylazine — An Animal Tranquilizer — Is Getting Mixed With Fentanyl

Arianna Johnson – Forbes: 22 March 2023

Xylazine-laced fentanyl has been found in 48 states, creating what experts call the “deadliest drug” in the United States, which results in side effects including necrosis, amnesia, blurred vision and death.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ariannajohnson/2023/03/22/the-deadliest-drug-in-america-explained-how-xylazine-an-animal-tranquilizer--is-getting-mixed-with-fentanyl/?sh=545224f33237>

Cocaine trafficking surges following COVID-19-related slowdown

United Nations News: 16 March 2023

Routed through new hubs and expanded criminal networks, cocaine trafficking has made a dramatic comeback following an initial slowdown caused by the pandemic, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime said in a new report.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1134607>

For more on this theme:

Examining Costa Rica’s Role in International Drug Trafficking

<https://ticotimes.net/2023/03/21/examining-costa-ricas-role-in-international-drug-trafficking>

Exclusive: Amid U.S. pressure on fentanyl, Mexico raises drug lab raids data

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/amid-us-pressure-fentanyl-mexico-raises-drug-lab-raids-data-2023-03-17/>

5 Takeaways From UN Global Report on Cocaine 2023

<https://insightcrime.org/news/5-takeaways-from-un-global-report-on-cocaine-2023/>

Europe Narco-Sub Heralds More to Come

<https://insightcrime.org/news/second-ever-narco-sub-europe-herald-atlantic/>

Matamoros, a Symptom of Mexico’s Larger Illness

<https://insightcrime.org/news/matamoros-symptom-organized-crime-mexico-tamaulipas/>

The Northeast Cartel and Criminal Hegemony in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico

<https://insightcrime.org/news/northeast-cartel-criminal-hegemony-nuevo-laredo-mexico/>

U.S. Sanctions Narco Boss from Bosnia and Herzegovina

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17431-u-s-sanctions-narco-boss-from-bosnia-and-herzegovina>

Mexican Cartels Bolster Foothold and Alliances in Colombia

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/mexican-cartels-bolster-foothold-and-alliances-in-colombia/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Indonesian campaigns getting money from illegal logging, mining, watchdog says

Hans Nicholas Jong – Mongabay: 21 March 2023

As Indonesia gears up for legislative and presidential elections, authorities have warned of the pattern of dirty money that flowed into past campaigns.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/03/indonesian-campaigns-getting-money-from-illegal-logging-mining-watchdog-says/>

SpaceX's Starlink devices found in illegal mining sites in the Amazon

Julia Jones – CNN: 16 March 2023

Five Starlink internet devices were found during raids by Brazil's environmental police. The equipment itself is not illegal, but it can be used for illegal activities. Communications can be challenging in the Amazon, and the small satellite dishes aided in communications between illegal miners.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/16/americas/spacex-starlink-amazon-brazil-mining-intl-latam/index.html>

For more on this theme:

An assessment of wildlife trade between Madagascar and Southeast Asia

<https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/an-assessment-of-wildlife-trade-between-madagascar-and-southeast-asia/>

Sighting of tiger helps detect illegal logging inside national park

<https://nagalandpost.com/index.php/sighting-of-tiger-helps-detect-illegal-logging-inside-national-park/>

An overview of the timber traceability systems in the Congo Basin countries

<https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/an-overview-of-the-timber-traceability-systems-in-the-congo-basin-countries/>

Emerging deforestation frontier in southwestern Amazon sees increase in burnings

<https://phys.org/news/2023-03-emerging-deforestation-frontier-southwestern-amazon.html>

UN denounces new attacks on Indigenous people in Nicaragua's largest reserve

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/03/un-denounces-new-attacks-on-indigenous-people-in-nicaraguas-largest-reserve/>

Brazil tackles illegal miners, but finds their mercury legacy harder to erase

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/03/brazil-tackles-illegal-miners-but-finds-their-mercury-legacy-harder-to-erase/>

Illegal Gold Mining Operations in Venezuelan Amazon on the Rise

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/illegal-gold-mining-operations-in-venezuelan-amazon-on-the-rise/>

Skylight becoming key tool in fight against IUU fishing

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/premium/environment-sustainability/skylight-becoming-key-tool-in-fight-against-iuu-fishing>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

EU mulls setting global digital standards with UN Global Digital Compact

Luca Bertuzzi – EURACTIV: 21 March 2023

The European Union intends to push for its digital rules to become international standards at a United Nations convention intended to produce a vision of the digitalized society.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/eu-mulls-setting-global-digital-standards-with-un-global-digital-compact/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Social Media Isn't a Public Function, but Maybe the Internet Is

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/social-media-isnt-public-function-maybe-internet>

(Africa) The AFRINIC Saga — a Firestorm in Haven

<https://circleid.com/posts/20230317-a-firestorm-in-haven>

(Global) Web3 vs. The Metaverse: What's the Difference?

<https://www.makeuseof.com/web3-vs-metaverse/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Shanghai court jails blogger for seven years over 'subversive' posts

Gao Feng – Radio Free Asia: 23 March 2023

A court in Shanghai has handed a seven-year jail term to the author of a programming and politics blog who evaded government detection for about 12 years after finding him guilty of “incitement to subvert state power,” Radio Free Asia reported.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/china-blogger-03222023172744.html>

For more on this theme:

(Hong Kong) Distributors pull plug on Winnie the Pooh cult horror flick in Hong Kong

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/hongkong-winniethepooh-03222023143900.html>

(India) India Cuts Off Internet to 27 Million People to Catch One Man

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/ak3z4e/amritpal-singh-india-khalistan-sikh-punjab>

(India) Rights not loading: Internet shutdowns disrupt lives

<https://www.deccanherald.com/specials/insight/rights-not-loading-internet-shutdowns-disrupt-lives-1201443.html>

CYBER STRATEGY AND STATECRAFT

What is the National Cybersecurity Strategy? A cybersecurity expert explains what it is and what the Biden administration has changed

Richard Forno – The Conversation: 20 March 2023

The administration released its first National Cybersecurity Strategy on March 2, 2023. The National Cybersecurity Strategy outlines a president's priorities regarding cybersecurity issues.

<https://theconversation.com/what-is-the-national-cybersecurity-strategy-a-cybersecurity-expert-explains-what-it-is-and-what-the-biden-administration-has-changed-201122>

For more on this theme:

(U.K.) Government sets out strategy to protect NHS from cyber attacks

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-strategy-to-protect-nhs-from-cyber-attacks>

(Australia) 2023-2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy: Leading the Charge

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=6b2f9aa5-e5c1-4f5e-a067-72c0e8b73286>

(Global) The Unsung Hero Of Cybersecurity: Teamwork

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2023/03/21/the-unsung-hero-of-cybersecurity-teamwork/?sh=1d10e83329a0>

CYBERATTACKS

Australia's Latitude Group, IPH hit by cyber attacks amid wave of hacks

Mehr Bedi – Reuters: 16 March 2023

Digital payments firm Latitude Group Holdings and intellectual property services provider IPH reported data breaches, joining a host of other Australian firms targeted by hackers.

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/australias-latitude-group-says-customer-information-stolen-cyber-attack-2023-03-15/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) San Francisco Battles Rising Cybercrime 'Tsunami' After Oakland Hit Hard

<https://sfstandard.com/criminal-justice/san-francisco-battles-rising-cybercrime-tsunami-after-oakland-hit-hard/>

(Russia, India) Russian hacker group Phoenix hit Indian health ministry website: CloudSEK

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/russian-hacker-group-phoenix-hit-indian-health-ministry-website-cloudsek-123031600398_1.html

(Italy) Ferrari rejects ransom demand after cyber attack

<https://www.computerweekly.com/news/365533112/Ferrari-rejects-ransom-demand-after-cyber-attack>

CYBERCRIME

How the future of cyber crime could involve fake voice messages from loved ones

Patrick Ryan – The Nation: 17 March 2023

Imagine receiving a voice message from your spouse saying they had an emergency and need you to make an urgent payment from your bank account. Many, if not most of us, would send it without a second thought. However, cybersecurity experts have said that we should not be so quick to believe everything we hear in the years to come.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/2023/03/17/how-the-future-of-cybercrime-could-involve-fake-voice-messages-from-loved-ones/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) FBI Annual Internet Crime Report Finds Hot New Trend in Online Scams: “Pig Butchering”

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/fbi-annual-internet-crime-report-finds-hot-new-trend-in-online-scams-pig-butchering/>

(Global) Solving the cybercrime problem

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/solving-cybercrime-problem-2023-03-21/>

(China, Russia, Global) Chinese SilkLoader Malware Sold to Russian Cyber-Criminals

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/chinese-silkloader-sold-russian/>

(Global) International Crime Collaboration Could Slow North Korean Cyber Activity

<https://www.oodaloop.com/archive/2023/03/16/international-crime-collaboration-could-slow-north-korean-cyber-activity/>

(Global) How Cyber-Criminals are Circumventing Multifactor Authentication

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/blogs/cybercriminals-circumventing-mfa/>

(India) How India waged war against cyber crime on an industrial scale

<https://www.indianarrative.com/opinion-news/how-india-waged-war-against-cyber-crime-on-an-industrial-scale-122610.html>

(Russia, Global) How Russia’s Ukraine War Disrupted the Cybercrime Ecosystem

<https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/russias-ukraine-invasion-disrupted-cybercrime-ecosystem-a-21478>

(Australia) Fighting cyber crime a key driver of the Australian Federal Police’s new command structure

<https://www.cybersecurityconnect.com.au/strategy/8824-fighting-cybercrime-a-key-driver-of-the-australian-federal-police-s-new-command-structure>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

U.S. Commander: ISIS in Afghanistan 6 Months Away From Foreign Attack Capability

Paul D. Shinkman – U.S. News & World Report: 16 March 2023

“They can do an external operation against U.S. or Western interests abroad in under six months with little to no warning,” says the Army general in charge of regional operations.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2023-03-16/u-s-commander-isis-in-afghanistan-6-months-away-from-foreign-attack-capability>

For more on this theme:

IntelBrief: South Africa Has Emerged as a Financial Hub for ISIS in Africa

<https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2023-march-21/>

ISIS Attacks Freedom Of Press In Afghanistan, Reinforcing Its Importance Even More

<https://theowp.org/isis-attacks-freedom-of-press-in-afghanistan-reinforcing-its-importance-even-more/>

ISIS-Affiliated Financial Networks Double Down on Efforts to Exfiltrate Loyalists, Particularly Young Boys, from Camp Al-Hol

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/isis-affiliated-financial-networks-double-down-on-efforts-to-exfiltrate-loyalists-particularly-young-boys-from-camp-al-hol/>

IS-linked extremists infiltrate ASEAN, eyeing Indonesia 2024 polls

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Terrorism/IS-linked-extremists-infiltrate-ASEAN-eyeing-Indonesia-2024-polls>

Islamic State Claims Responsibility For Killing 10 People In Eastern DRC

<https://saharareporters.com/2023/03/20/islamic-state-claims-responsibility-killing-10-people-eastern-drc>

A struggle between ISIS and Boko Haram for hegemony in Nigeria

<https://globeecho.com/politics/a-struggle-between-isis-and-boko-haram-for-hegemony-in-nigeria/>

A string of assassinations in Afghanistan point to ISIS-K resurgence — and US officials warn of possible attacks on American interests in next 6 months

<https://theconversation.com/a-string-of-assassinations-in-afghanistan-point-to-isis-k-resurgence-and-us-officials-warn-of-possible-attacks-on-american-interests-in-next-6-months-201852>

Afghan Taliban raid in Kabul kills 3 Islamic State members

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/afghan-taliban-raid-kabul-kills-3-islamic-state-98034395>

Germany arrests Syrian accused of joining Islamic State unit

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/germany-arrests-syrian-accused-joining-islamic-state-unit-98043595>

In Afghanistan, Taliban Face a Growing Threat in ISKP

<https://thediplomat.com/2023/03/in-afghanistan-taliban-face-a-growing-threat-in-iskp/>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Countering Violent Extremism in Bangladesh

European Eye on Radicalization: 17 March 2023

In September 2022, an anti-terrorism unit of the Bangladesh Police revealed the emergence of a new militant organization: Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya. Since then, the group has been operating underground to expand its network and raise funding.

<https://eeradicalization.com/countering-violent-extremism-in-bangladesh/>

Brief: South Korea Cracks Down on Cryptocurrency Transfers to Central Asian Jihadists

Jacob Zenn – Jamestown Foundation: 17 March 2023

On January 16, two Uzbek and Kazakh citizens in South Korea were arrested for violating the country's anti-terrorism funding laws by using cryptocurrency to fund the Syrian al-Qaida-aligned jihadist group Katibat Tawhid wal-Jihad. This case has pushed the intelligence services to reinvestigate investigation into other possible funders of terrorism in the country.

<https://jamestown.org/program/brief-south-korea-cracks-down-on-cryptocurrency-transfers-to-central-asian-jihadists/>

For more on this theme:

Lockdowns for Public Health Can Also Reduce Violence

<https://politicalsciencenow.com/lockdowns-for-public-health-can-also-reduce-violence/>

Popular Resistance Committees Attempts To Establish a Foothold in the West Bank

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2023/03/popular-resistance-committees-attempts-to-establish-a-foothold-in-the-west-bank.php>

Why Boko Haram has lasted many years — Petirin, ex-Defence chief

<https://punchng.com/why-boko-haram-has-lasting-many-years-petirin-ex-defence-chief/>

Boko Haram establishes recruitment base in Niger Republic

<https://dailypost.ng/2023/03/22/boko-haram-establishes-recruitment-base-in-niger-republic/>

The Haqqani-Akhundzada Rift: Could Civil War Break Out in the Taliban's Ranks?

<https://jamestown.org/program/the-haqqani-akhundzada-rift-could-civil-war-break-out-in-the-talibans-ranks/>

The Deradicalization and Parole of Indonesia's Umar Patek — the Bomber of Bali

<https://jamestown.org/program/the-deradicalization-and-parole-of-indonesias-umar-patek-the-bomb-maker-of-bali/>

Terrorism a Collective Problem and its Challenges

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2023/03/20/terrorism-a-collective-problem-and-its-challenges/>

CRIME AND CONFLICT

Putin Becomes a Global Outlaw

Sam Greene – CEPA: 17 March 2023

The International Criminal Court's decision means the status quo is dead. Russia's leader now faces an uncertain future.

<https://cepa.org/article/putin-becomes-a-global-outlaw/>

For more on this theme:

Wanted for Crimes Against Children: Vladimir Putin

<https://cepa.org/article/wanted-for-crimes-against-children-vladimir-putin/>

Possible Geopolitical Consequences Of ICC's Arrest Warrant For Putin – Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/18032023-possible-geopolitical-consequences-of-iccs-arrest-warrant-for-putin-analysis/>

Child abductions reveal the genocidal intent behind Putin's Ukraine invasion

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/child-abductions-reveal-the-genocidal-intent-behind-putins-ukraine-invasion/>

Russia's Black Sea blockade is part of Putin's war on international law

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/russias-black-sea-blockade-is-part-of-putins-war-on-international-law/>

Putin the Pariah: War crimes arrest warrant deepens Russia's isolation

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/putin-the-pariah-war-crimes-arrest-warrant-deepens-russias-isolation/>

ICC arrest warrant for Putin is a step toward ending Russian impunity

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/icc-arrest-warrant-for-putin-is-a-step-toward-ending-russian-impunity/>

Russia's energy grid attacks, torture in Ukraine, could be crimes against humanity: UN rights probe

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1134652>

ICC to plead for extra money to pursue Russian war crimes in Ukraine

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2023/mar/20/icc-russian-war-crimes-ukraine-international-criminal-court-karim-khan>

Russia signals it will take more Ukrainian children, a crime in progress

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/03/19/world/ukraine-children-russia-abduction/>

UN report finds Russia has committed “indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks” in Ukraine

<https://www.asil.org/ILIB/un-report-finds-russia-has-committed-%E2%80%9Cindiscriminate-and-disproportionate-attacks%E2%80%9D-ukraine>

In Ukraine, echoes of Nuremberg

<https://www.politico.eu/article/in-ukraine-echoes-of-nuremberg-international-criminal-court-polish-red-cross-jan-chrzanowski-lvova-belova-mariupol-vladimir-putin-russia-karim-khan/>

CRIME AND CONFLICT

For more on this theme:

Ukraine Symposium – Russia’s “Re-Education” Camps: Grave Violations Against Children in Armed Conflict

<https://lieber.westpoint.edu/russias-re-education-camps-grave-violations-against-children-armed-conflict/>

Thousands of children forcibly deported from Ukraine and sent to Russia

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2023/03/18/russia-childrens-rights-commissioner-war-crimes-bell-dnt-vpx.cnn>

US: War crimes on all sides in Ethiopia’s Tigray conflict

<https://apnews.com/article/blinken-ethiopia-tigray-eritrea-war-crimes-da5d9ac7c900c58cc34b-9ca5d4156667>

How an international arrest warrant for Putin puts a new spin on Xi visit to Russia

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/how-an-international-arrest-warrant-for-putin-puts-a-new-spin-on-xi-visit-to-russia>

Is Amending the Rome Statute the Panacea Against Perceived Selectivity and Impunity for the Crime of Aggression Committed Against Ukraine?

<https://www.justsecurity.org/85593/is-amending-the-rome-statute-the-panacea-against-perceived-selectivity-and-impunity-for-the-crime-of-aggression-committed-against-ukraine/>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Analysis: China’s sway over Russia grows amid Ukraine fight

Vladimir Isachenkov – The Associated Press: 22 March 2023

At one point during his Kremlin meetings, Chinese leader Xi Jinping told Russian President Vladimir Putin that they were driving global changes unseen in more than a century.

<https://apnews.com/article/russia-china-putin-xi-ukraine-alliance-partnership-us-sanctions-beijing-moscow-9089f4d4b9c0d8bb259b706ffc4b0f6>

For more on this theme:

Will Iran’s Conventional Army Join the Drone Export Game in Ukraine and Beyond?

<https://jamestown.org/program/will-irans-conventional-army-join-the-drone-export-game-in-ukraine-and-beyond/>

Moving the Goalposts: Russia’s Evolving War Aims in Ukraine (Part Three)

<https://jamestown.org/program/moving-the-goalposts-russias-evolving-war-aims-in-ukraine-part-three/>

Putin and Xi Are Making the War in Ukraine a Global Contest

<https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/89364>

Logistical Lessons From Ukraine — and What It Means for Taiwan

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/logistical-lessons-ukraine%E2%80%94and-what-it-means-taiwan>

Beijing’s Lean Into Moscow

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/03/20/beijing-s-lean-into-moscow-pub-89317>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Analysis: China's Xi takes 'diplomatic dance' to isolated Russia

<https://www.reuters.com/world/touting-friendship-peace-chinas-xi-takes-diplomatic-dance-isolated-russia-2023-03-18/>

War in Ukraine: Russia the Loser, the US a Winner

<https://cepa.org/article/war-in-ukraine-energy-russia-the-loser-the-west-a-winner/>

Putin's Narrative of Betrayal Betrayed

<https://cepa.org/article/putins-narrative-of-betrayal-betrayed/>

Behind the Lines: Passport to the Front

<https://cepa.org/article/behind-the-lines-passport-to-the-frontline/>

God's Propagandists

<https://cepa.org/article/gods-propagandists/>

The Kremlin's Worsening Emigree Phobia

<https://cepa.org/article/the-kremlins-worsening-emigree-phobia/>

Taiwan supports Ukraine and studies country's response to Russian invasion

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/taiwan-supports-ukraine-and-studies-countrys-response-to-russian-invasion/>

Ukraine Symposium – A Path Forward for Food Security in Armed Conflict

<https://lieber.westpoint.edu/path-forward-food-security-armed-conflict/>

Why the role of crypto is huge in the Ukraine war

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/03/the-role-cryptocurrency-crypto-huge-in-ukraine-war-russia/>

China's Naval Strategists Dissect Ukraine's USV Strike on Russia's Black Sea Fleet Base

<https://thediplomat.com/2023/03/chinas-naval-strategists-dissect-ukraines-usv-strike-on-russias-black-sea-fleet-base/>

An update on Ukraine — security, economic, and humanitarian conditions

<https://www.brookings.edu/podcast-episode/an-update-on-ukraine-security-economic-and-humanitarian-conditions/>

Having It Both Ways: Russians Both Support and Oppose War

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/having-it-both-ways-russians-both-support-and-oppose-war>

Ukraine-Russia: Extension of grain export deals vital to global food security

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1134737>

The Bloody Toll of Russia's War in Ukraine

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/bloody-toll-russias-war-ukraine>

A shrinking reservoir signals Ukraine and Russia are waging a dangerous water war

<https://www.npr.org/2023/03/22/1164838051/ukraine-russia-war-kakhovka-reservoir>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

World Bank says \$411bn cost to rebuild war-torn Ukraine

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/23/cost-of-rebuilding-ukraine-due-to-russian-war-411bn-world-bank>

Ukraine Issues Warning Over Russia's 'Atypical Activity' in Black Sea

<https://www.newsweek.com/ukraine-warning-russia-activity-black-sea-1788219>

Bulgarian Blasts And Russia's War In Ukraine

<https://www.rferl.org/a/bulgaria-sabotage-russia-ukraine-war/32322312.html>

Russians bearing gifts shove Ukraine aside to win over Global South

<https://www.politico.eu/article/russia-ukraine-war-win-global-south-fertilizer-grain/>

Japan's Kishida Offers Ukraine Support as China's Xi Backs Russia

<https://thediplomat.com/2023/03/japans-kishida-offers-ukraine-support-as-chinas-xi-backs-russia/>