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Corruption

The Anti-corruption Formula
Jairo Acuña-Alfaro and Matilde Mordt – United Nations Development Program: 5 May 2022

Corruption is a systemic phenomenon. It is at the same time a failure of governance and development. In order to tackle it rigorously, we need to understand how the rule of law works and how incentives for enforcing rules and procedures can be changed.

https://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/blog/2022/the-anti-corruption-formula.html

For more on this theme:

The Exile of Guatemala’s Anti-Corruption Efforts

Jordanian Businessman, the King’s Uncle, Sentenced for Corruption

Former Kyrgyz Governor Arrested On Corruption Charges
https://www.rferl.org/a/kyrgyzstan-governor-abdraimov-corruption/31830694.html

Brazil: UN claims corruption probe violated ex-president Lula’s rights

Pakistan: new government must tackle police corruption and killings

Kazakhstan: Customs feel the heat as anti-corruption drive steps up a gear
https://eurasianet.org/kazakhstan-customs-feel-the-heat-as-anti-corruption-drive-steps-up-a-gear

Fighting Corruption Proves Costly for Romania’s Embattled Journalists
https://balkaninsight.com/2022/05/02/fighting-corruption-proves-costly-for-romanias-embattled-journalists/

Corruption is a major obstacle to Nigeria’s development – ICPC chairman
https://www.icirnigeria.org/corruption-is-major-obstacle-to-nigerias-development-icpc-chairman/

Expecting the best of local officials

Increasing Scale of Corruption and its Impact on Development in Africa

‘I’m in Russia Fighting Putin’s Corruption—I Want Ukraine to Win’

China’s Anti-Corruption Campaign: Tigers, Flies, and Everything in Between
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Élise Blanchard – VICE: 6 May 2022
VICE World News discovered a still-flourishing poppy trade in the fields and markets of southern Afghanistan. But amid warnings from Taliban fighters, farmers are worried about their future.

Methamphetamine and criminal networks in Europe — flexible, adaptable and resilient
European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction: May 2022
Criminal networks active in methamphetamine production and trafficking rapidly adapt to regulatory changes aimed at curbing their trade.

For more on this theme:

U.S. charges British Virgin Islands premier with drug trafficking, money laundering

Balkan Traffickers Becoming Ever More Important to Trans-Atlantic Cocaine Trade

Le Havre Cocaine Bust Marks French Port’s Prominence in Pipeline to Europe

Dirty Business: What European Wastewater Shows About Drug Trends

Made-in-Mexico ‘Ghost Guns’ Find Way to Cartels

Chile: One More Departure Point for Europe-Bound Cocaine

We cannot ignore Syria’s emergence as a narco-state
https://www.mei.edu/publications/we-cannot-ignore-syrias-emergence-narco-state

The Case of a Missing Ton of Cocaine Highlights the Dangers of the Drug Trade

Myanmar Rebel Group Denies Role in Alleged Drugs-for-Weapons Scheme

Former Honduran president pleads not guilty to federal drug trafficking and firearm charges
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Caribbean Countries to Strengthen Measures Against Illegal Fishing
Guillermo Saavedra – Diálogo: 9 May 2022

Member countries of the Caribbean Community will strengthen the region’s response to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing through coordinated actions at both the national and regional levels.


For more on this theme:

Game changer: How Sam Wasser became the ivory detective

Environmentalists say logging in Tasmania has been illegal since 1987. Here’s why law changes are being rushed through

Sri Lanka’s environmentalists brace for economic meltdown’s toll on nature
https://news.mongabay.com/2022/05/sri-lankas-environmentalists-brace-for-economic-meltdowns-toll-on-nature/

Inside the illegal trading of forest woods in Cross River community

How charcoal, indiscriminate logging contribute to deforestation in Kwara

In Mexico, a divine bird inspires a community’s sustainable forestry efforts
https://news.mongabay.com/2022/05/in-mexico-a-divine-bird-inspires-a-communitys-sustainable-forestry-efforts/

In the Wake of Coup, Gold Mining Boom Is Ravaging Myanmar
https://e360.yale.edu/features/as-conflict-persists-gold-mining-boom-is-ravaging-myanmar

INTERPOL Team To Support Member Countries Combating Illegal Gold Mining In Latin America

Venezuelan Tainted Gold
https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/29/venezuelan-tainted-gold#

Boats behaving badly: New report analyzes China’s own fisheries data

Virgin Orbit’s 1st UK launch will loft a satellite to track illegal activity at sea
https://www.space.com/virgin-orbit-amber-1-satellite-track-illegal-activity
MONEY LAUNDERING

Trade-based money laundering
Dwaipayan Regmi – The Kathmandu Post: 8 May 2022
We need not wait for a financial disaster to combat this upgraded form of money laundering.
https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2022/05/08/trade-based-money-laundering

For more on this theme:
As US pledges renewed fight against dirty money, head of financial crime agency says funding shortfalls have caused delays

Scope of Australia’s anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regime to be widened?

Biden announces legislative proposals to crack down on Russian oligarchs

Dividend or Liability? Financial Inclusion, Digital Deprivation, and Cyber Risk Proliferation in South Africa

Resolution targets illicit trade, money laundering

Crypto money laundering risk high, European watchdog says

Ghana: Empower Youth to Fight Money Laundering — Interior Minister
https://allafrica.com/stories/202205100202.html

The biggest money laundering scandals in history

Morocco, US, UK Discuss Joint Fight Against Money Laundering
https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2022/05/348944/morocco-us-uk-discuss-joint-fight-against-money-laundering

Luxury real estate is ‘at the top of the list’ as the Justice Department investigates Russian money laundering, DOJ official says

U.S. takes aim at North Korean crypto laundering
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

A safe, open internet with transatlantic rules is easier than it sounds
Susan Ness and Chris Riley – The Hill: 6 May 2022

The internet is global, but the laws that govern it are local.

For more on this theme:
(Philippines, Global) Best good governance tool? Expert says it’s digital shift with citizen inclusion

(Global) What is Web 3.0? Here’s what the internet will look like in the future
https://www.laptopmag.com/features/what-is-web-3

(Russia, Global) Russia-Ukraine Conflict and Geopolitics of Data Routing

(Russia, Global) Can Russia really disconnect from the rest of the digital world?
https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/world/can-russia-really-disconnect-from-the-rest-of-the-digital-world

INTERNET FREEDOM

India’s VPN crackdown demonstrates a growing focus on mass surveillance
Qadri Inzamam – Rest of World: 9 May 2022

From bypassing censorship to watching porn, Indians’ usage of VPNs has been increasing in recent years. Now, whether VPNs comply with the new rule or exit the country, it is the “user whose privacy will be at stake.”
https://restofworld.org/2022/indias-vpn-crackdown-surveillance/

For more on this theme:
(Global) Countries with the most — and least — digital freedom

(North Korea) North Korean citizens are jailbreaking smartphones to bypass censorship
https://www.freethink.com/culture/north-korea-hacking-jailbreaking

(Global) Disinformation, Censorship, Trigger Global Retreat of Press Freedom

(Philippines) Censorship in the Philippines
https://opinion.inquirer.net/152825/censorship-in-the-philippines
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Broadband companies pledge to help low income families pay for high speed internet

Vincent Acovino and Roberta Rampton – National Public Radio: 9 May 2022

Twenty U.S. internet providers have agreed to offer high-speed connections at essentially no cost to millions of low-income households as part of a program funded by the infrastructure law passed last year.

https://www.npr.org/2022/05/09/1097673813/broadband-companies-pledge-to-help-low-income-families-pay-for-high-speed-intern

For more on this theme:

(Global) Universities can't expect to grow cyber workforce with 'antiquated methods'
https://edscoop.com/universities-cyber-workforce/

(Latin America) Are There Certain initiatives that May Go a Long Way Toward Strengthening Latin American Cyber Capacity?

(Global) Empowering Security Researchers Will Improve Global Cybersecurity
https://www.justsecurity.org/81293/empowering-security-researchers-will-improve-global-cybersecurity/

(U.S., Ukraine) U.S. Support for Connectivity and Cybersecurity in Ukraine
https://www.state.gov/u-s-support-for-connectivity-and-cybersecurity-in-ukraine/

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Pakistan: cyber-attack on govt's websites

Global Village Space: 11 May 2022

IT Ministry confirms no data was stolen as it successfully thwarted the DDoS attack.
https://www.globalvillagespace.com/pakistan-cyber-attack-on-govts-websites/

For more on this theme:

(Global) U.S. Government Attributes Cyberattacks on SATCOM Networks to Russian State-Sponsored Malicious Cyber Actors

(Italy, Russia) Pro-Russian hackers target Italy institutional websites

(Costa Rica) Conti Ransomware Attack Spurs State of Emergency in Costa Rica

(U.S.) Lincoln College to Close Permanently After Ransomware Attack
CYBER CRIME

UK Intelligence Chief Details Cybercrime Disruption Efforts
Mathew J. Schwartz – GovInfoSecurity: 10 May 2022

Britain is taking the fight to cybercriminals by helping to directly disrupt their networks as well as block their access to tools, including malware.
https://www.govinfosecurity.com/uk-intelligence-chief-details-cybercrime-disruption-efforts-a-19049

For more on this theme:

(Global) Are Rewards Effective in Combating Nation-State Cybercrime?
https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/interviews/april-28-security-report-i-5056

(India) How to deal with cybercrime in India?

(GLOBAL) Interpol: We can't arrest our way out of cybercrime
https://www.theregister.com/2022/04/29/interpol_cybercrime_partnerships/

(U.S.) Virginia Researchers Study Gaps in Cyber Crime Reporting

(India) Better Awareness Needed To Check Cyber Crimes: Officials

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

How lightweight encryption can protect critical infrastructure for smart cities
By Shannon Vaughn – GCN: 9 May 2022

Municipalities depend on a growing number of connected devices and data streams. How are you safeguarding the data that traverses these networks?

For more on this theme:

(Global) Cybersecurity in the IoT World: How Telcos Can Secure Critical Infrastructure Against New Threats

(Australia) Securing northern Australia’s critical infrastructure against cyberattacks

(U.S.) Protecting against cyber threats during the Russia-Ukraine conflict

(Global) 4 Ways to Improve Your Critical Infrastructure Security
https://www.techopedia.com/4-ways-to-improve-your-critical-infrastructure-security/2/34765
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Global Coalition Warns No Rest for Fight Against Islamic State
Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 11 May 2022

Nearly three years after U.S.-backed forces in Syria seized the last remaining territory held by the self-declared caliphate, members of the global coalition charged with eradicating the terror group warn their task is not getting any easier.

https://www.voanews.com/a/global-coalition-warns-no-rest-for-fight-against-islamic-state-/6568029.html

Al-Hol: Displacement Crisis is a Tinderbox that Could Ignite ISIS 2.0
Mona Yacoubian – United States Institute of Peace: 11 May 2022

Growing concern over the dire conditions in the camp has galvanized high-level global attention to detention and displacement in northeast Syria.

https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/05/al-hol-displacement-crisis-tinderbox-could-ignite-isis-2.0

For more on this theme:

Salafi-Jihadi Global Tracker: Islamic State Media Exaggerates Strength and Cohesion in Revenge Campaign

Joint Communiqué by Ministers of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS

The Islamic State Sets Its Sights on Africa
https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/05/12/islamic-state-africa-sahel-terrorist-groups-counterterrorism/

IS-K: A lingering shadow over Taliban-ruled Afghanistan

US sanctions ISIL (ISIS) financial network

Eyes in the wartime sky: satellite-tracking Islamic State’s archaeological destruction
https://cosmosmagazine.com/people/society/satellite-tracking-isis/

‘ISIS trying to regroup in Afghanistan’
https://theprint.in/world/isis-trying-to-regroup-in-afghanistan/944697/

ISIS Declares ‘Duty’ and ‘War Policy’ to Deploy Disinformation as a Weapon
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Afghan-based terror groups still a year away from ability to strike US, intel leaders say
Leo Shane III – C4ISRNET: 10 May 2022

Terrorist groups within Afghanistan are still about a year away from being able to attack targets in Western countries but remain a significant concern for U.S. military planners, intelligence officials told lawmakers.

Why Social Media Is So Appealing to Terrorist Organizations
Jarrod Sadulski – American Military University: 10 May 2022

Social media platforms enable billions of people to communicate worldwide. They are free, easy to use and allow videos and written messages to be easily shared with a global audience.
https://amuedge.com/why-social-media-is-so-appealing-to-terrorist-organizations/

For more on this theme:

A rival sits out Lebanon’s election. Now Hezbollah could fill the void

Analysis: Wave of Terrorism in Israel Continues, Hamas’ Role Becoming Evident

Afghanistan: Taliban orders women to stay home; cover up in public
https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/05/1117762

How the Taliban’s Hijab Decree Defies Islam
https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/05/how-talibans-hijab-decree-defies-islam

New Ideas for Over-the-Horizon Counterterrorism in Afghanistan
https://www.lawfareblog.com/new-ideas-over-horizon-counterterrorism-afghanistan

Somali Police Say Three Killed, Seven Wounded in Bombing at Presidential Election Site

Terrorism in prisons
https://thecritic.co.uk/terrorism-in-prisons/

Violence In Lake Chad Basin Drives 360,000 Refugees Into Niger Republic

Counterterrorism Chief Christy Abizaid on top terror threats – “Intelligence Matters”
RADICALIZATION

Antisemitic Crimes Are Surging in Germany
Tim Hume – VICE: 10 May 2022

A Jewish community leader said the pandemic acted as an “accelerant” for hate as Germany recorded its highest number of politically motivated crimes since records began.

For more on this theme:

7,000 Boko Haram Members Surrender: Is Rehabilitation Good Enough?
https://theowp.org/reports/7000-boko-haram-members-surrender-is-rehabilitation-good-enough/

Enablers of political extremism: a checklist for West African countries

Swedish watchdog closes two Islamic schools for radicalising pupils
https://www.thelocal.se/20220505/swedish-schools-watchdog-close-two-islamic-schools-for-radicalisation/

Prison staff in North Macedonia to pilot new treatment programme on radicalisation

How Al-Qaeda is Still Active in India; Fresh Arrests Throw Light on Its Growing Propaganda

CONFLICT AND CRIME

Ukraine prosecutors ready to launch first war crimes trials of Russia conflict

Russian soldier who allegedly killed man before raping his wife to be among first to face trial.

For more on this theme:

Russia-Ukraine latest updates: UN sets up ‘rights abuses’ inquiry

What Is a War Crime?

Russian Forces Must Face Justice for War Crimes in Kyiv Oblast – New Investigation
https://www.amnestyusa.org/reports/russian-forces-must-face-justice-for-war-crimes-in-kyiv-oblast-new-investigation/

Rising insecurity a setback for The Gambia’s transition
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/rising-insecurity-a-setback-for-the-gambias-transition
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Russia's Ukraine War Weighs Heavily on Tajikistan
Barmak Pazhwak – United States Institute of Peace: May 2022

The Tajik government should focus on securing greater domestic legitimacy as Russia remains mired in Ukraine.

https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/05/russias-ukraine-war-weighs-heavily-tajikistan

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How the West Can Persuade China to Reconsider Its Russia Relationship
https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/03/16/how-west-can-persuade-china-to-reconsider-its-russia-relationship-pub-86663

Why the Kremlin Treats Its Own Citizens With Contempt
https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/05/12/why-kremlin-treats-its-own-citizens-with-contempt-pub-87119

Russia's Invasion of Ukraine Has Jeopardized the China-EU Relationship
https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/05/10/russia-s-invasion-of-ukraine-has-jeopardized-china-eu-relationship-pub-87107

A Fragile Stability in Moldova
https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/87099

How Ukraine Uses Obsolete Soviet Grenades To Destroy Russian Tanks From Above
https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-cheap-grenades-expensive-tanks/31835434.html

Russia's Manpower Conundrum in Ukraine
https://www.fpri.org/multimedia/2022/05/russias-manpower-conundrum-in-ukraine/

Putin's current dilemma was JFK's worst fear

Russia Crisis Military Assessment: How Ukraine is taking the fight to Russian soil

FAST THINKING: Why Finland and Sweden are feeling secure about NATO membership

Finland is on the verge of asking to join NATO. Here's why that's bad news for Putin

Can Ukraine's Military Keep Winning?
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/ukraine/2022-05-09/can-ukraines-military-keep-winning

How can the US and NATO help bring about Russia’s ‘strategic failure’ in Ukraine?

Russia’s Eastern Mediterranean Partners Go Slow on War
https://cepa.org/russias-eastern-mediterranean-partners-go-slow-on-war/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

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Bolstering the Baltics: Accelerated Security Assistance
https://cepa.org/bolstering-the-baltics-accelerated-security-assistance/

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https://cepa.org/conscript-army-putins-hollow-victory-masks-a-great-defeat/

How to Terminate Russian Disinformation
https://cepa.org/how-to-terminate-russian-disinformation/

Boiling the Frog — Russia’s Growing Black Sea Aggression Part I

Boiling the Frog — Russia’s Black Sea Aggression Part II, the War

Russia's Ukraine War Could Offer Chance to Resolve South Caucasus Conflicts
https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/05/russias-ukraine-war-could-offer-chance-resolve-south-caucasus-conflicts

Belarus dictator: Putin’s Ukraine invasion is not going according to plan

What North Korea learned from Ukraine: Now’s the perfect time for a nuclear push

Sweden hasn’t gone to war since Napoleon was alive, but Russia has it preparing for another one

Russian State TV Analyst Urges ‘Military Socialism’ Amid Ukraine Invasion

Ukraine’s wheat harvest may fall by 35%, raising fears of global shortage
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/06/ukraine-wheat-harvest-may-fall-by-35-percent-satellite-images-suggest

The Shadow War: Putin Strips Spies of Ukraine Role
https://cepa.org/the-shadow-war-putin-strips-spies-of-ukraine-role/

Europe is planning to ditch Russia’s oil. Will it go after its gas?
https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/05/energy/europe-russia-gas-sanctions/index.html

The International Financial Consequences Of Mr Putin – Analysis
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia's Economic Doldrums Causing Hardship In Kyrgyzstan

Russia is quietly wielding its cyber weapons as its military struggles in Ukraine

A Ceasefire Is Not Peace: Defining Defeat and Victory in Ukraine

Russia Denies Recruiting Ethiopian Volunteers for Its ‘Special Military Operation’ in Ukraine

Russia’s Cossacks: ‘Fighters’ Versus ‘Cheerleaders’ – Analysis

A Potemkin Military? Russia’s Over-Estimated Legions
https://cepa.org/a-potemkin-military-russias-over-estimated-legions/

Putin the Risen Christ — Russia’s Ultranationalist Pin-Up
https://cepa.org/putin-the-risen-christ-russias-ultranationalist-pin-up/

War’s Aftermath in Ukraine: Preparing Now for the Day After
https://www.justsecurity.org/81379/wars-aftermath-in-ukraine-preparing-now-for-the-day-after/

Despite failures in Ukraine, don’t underestimate Russia’s armed forces

Are We Informationally Disadvantaged? The Realities of Information War in Ukraine
https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/are-we-informationally-disadvantaged-realities-information-war-ukraine

Russian hackers targeting opponents of Ukraine invasion, warns GCHQ chief

To Really Hurt Russia’s Economy, Target Investment and Human Capital, Not Gas

The Slippery Slope of Intelligence Sharing with Ukraine

Role of cognitive warfare in Russia-Ukraine conflict: Potential for achieving strategic victory bypassing traditional battlefield
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Chinese calculations on Taiwan affected by Ukraine conflict, says CIA director**

**Ukraine Symposium – Destructive Counter-Mobility Operations and the Law of War**
https://lieber.westpoint.edu/destructive-counter-mobility-operations-law-of-war/

**Speech by Defence Secretary on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine**

**Interim security insights and implications from the first two months of the Russia-Ukraine war**

**Disrupters and Defenders: What the Ukraine War Has Taught Us About the Power of Global Tech Companies**