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CORRUPTION

The Capacity to Combat Corruption Index
Americas Society/Council of the Americas: 24 June 2019

An organization promoting democracy and free markets in the Americas published a new index calculating the ability of Latin American countries to combat corruption, differentiating itself from other indexes that calculate “levels” of corruption around the world.
https://www.as-coa.org/articles/capacity-combat-corruption-index

Council of Europe anti-corruption body report warns: public perceptions of low levels of corruption may be misleading
Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) – Council of Europe: 25 June 2019

Complacency breeds corruption. That was a European anti-corruption watchdog’s key message in its 2018 report. GRECO — which includes 48 European countries and the United States — focused its latest round of evaluations on transparency among parliamentarians, judges and prosecutors. Of its recommendations, only a third were implemented by member states last year, down from more than 40 percent in 2017.

Full report:
Anti-corruption trends, challenges and good practices in Europe & the United States of America
https://rm.coe.int/19th-general-activity-report-2018-group-of-states-against-corruption-g/1680951d14

For more on this theme:
Corruption and Violence Are Crippling Haiti
https://www.dailysignal.com/2019/06/20/corruption-and-violence-are-crippling-haiti/

Venezuelan Opposition Leader Juan Guaidó Faces A Corruption Scandal Of His Own

Ex-Interpol chief pleads guilty to corruption, China says

France’s Sarkozy to face trial for corruption and influence peddling: lawyer

Guatemala’s Presidential Election May Be a Blow to Anti-Corruption Effort

Why Tackling Corruption Could Also Reduce Violence in El Salvador
DRUG TRAFFICKING

The new drug highway: Pacific islands at centre of cocaine trafficking boom
Kate Lyons – The Guardian: 23 June 2019

Drug traffickers transport cocaine and methamphetamines through Pacific nations from the U.S. and Latin America to Australia and New Zealand, where drug users pay the highest price per gram for cocaine and have the highest cocaine use per capita in the world. While the route has been in use for decades, law enforcement experts said that the quantity of drugs trafficked through it has exploded in the last five years.


Opioids in Africa: cheap and accessible
Antonio Cascais and Clarissa Herrmann – Deutsche Welle: 26 June 2019

Legal opioids are cheap and easy to get in Africa, and that is causing a dramatic increase in their use.


For more on this theme:

‘I spent eight months working for a Mexican drug cartel’
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/b2d059be-35ec-4f68-9c87-01a398696051

Growing US Opioid Crisis Could Become a Big Threat to National Security
https://inhomelandsecurity.com/growing-us-opioid-crisis-threat/

Scotland’s drug crisis: How Portugal’s treatment of addicts halted death toll
https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scotlands-drug-crisis-how-portugals-16528309

Possessing Marijuana In Prison ‘Is Not A Felony,’ California Court Says

Public Cannabis Consumption Now Allowed In Colombia: Is Full Marijuana Legalization Next?

White Powder, Red Faces: Cocaine Cargo Aboard Brazil Presidential Plane

Catastrophic failure of the war on drugs
https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jun/20/catastrophic-failure-of-the-war-on-drugs

Mexico’s cartels appear to be shaking up the cocaine trade

French economists make case for legal marijuana
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

An appetite for dried seahorse in China could spell the marine animal's demise
Peter Yeung – Deutsche Welle: 26 June 2019

While nobody knows how many seahorses are left in the world, they are under threat. From the markets in West Africa to their destination, mainly China, these tiny creatures are hard to find and study; experts say demand is putting them at risk of extinction.

The NASA Veteran Cracking Down on Illegal Gold Miners
Tim McDonnell – Bloomberg: 17 June 2019

Ghana reached out to NASA for help finding illegal gold mines. NASA responded with imaging software that scans satellite photos to find the mining sites.

For more on this theme:
These Women Risk Their Lives To Save Rhinos And Elephants From Poachers
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/women-save-rhinos-elephants-poachers_n_5cf7b590e4b0dc70f44fd07

Canines for felines
https://www.traffic.org/news/canines-for-felines/

How strong is Africa's last elephant stronghold?
https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/06/elephants-poached-in-botswana/

How illegal rosewood logging is destroying lives in rural communities

Peru shut down one of the world's largest illegal gold mines. But at what cost?

Better Vessel Tracking Would Help Fight Illegal Fishing in Indian Ocean

Predictive AI is the newest weapon in the battle to protect endangered animals

To catch a (wildlife) thief

Illegal Mining Crackdown May Push Peru's Former Miners to Coca, Timber

Venezuela Disease Outbreaks Reveal Criminal Migration to Illegal Gold Mines
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Mexico Detains More Migrants as Crackdown Steps Up

Under heavy U.S. pressure, Mexico is deploying its national guard along the northern border and detaining migrants along its southern border to deter migration.

https://apnews.com/502860bf4c774deab9c71d76dee8ddd8

Will a German investment in Ghana’s youth slow down migration?
Kwasi Gyamfi Asiedu – PRI: 20 June 2019

Because Ghana differs from other African nations from which migrants are fleeing — it has a strong democracy and a growing economy — Germany is investing in business entrepreneurship programs that encourage potential migrants to stay and work in Ghana.


For more on this theme:

Making Migration Work for Everyone

Three Ways to Help Solve the Immigration Crisis
https://now.tufts.edu/articles/three-ways-help-solve-immigration-crisis

Sustainable Reintegration of Migrant Returnees in Africa Tackled at “European Development Days”

Human Trafficking Continues To Be Used By Terrorists: The ICC Must Address It

Mexico announces end to funding for human trafficking NGOs

Are your tinned tomatoes picked by slave labour?

Florida, Uber Team Up To Crack Down On Human Trafficking Before Super Bowl In Miami

Chile Facing Human Trafficking Influx from China

How to Fend Off Risks Related to Human Trafficking
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Communications ministry seeks policy to improve Internet governance, access
Adeyemi Adepetun and Matthew Ogune – The Guardian: 24 June 2019

Nigeria’s Ministry of Communications is looking to improve its policy framework to improve internet governance and access in Nigeria.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Balkanising the World Wide Web
https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/news/balkanising-the-world-wide-web-1762270

(Global) Amol Rajan: What kind of internet do you want?

(Uganda) Internet protocol body advocates increased Ugandan involvement

INTERNET FREEDOM

Myanmar shuts down internet in conflict areas as UN expert warns of potential abuses during blackout
James Griffiths – CNN: 25 June 2019

Authorities in Myanmar, also known as Burma, cut internet access to its Rakhine and Chin states. The shutdown order came amid an escalation in fighting between the Arakan Army insurgent group and government forces in the two states.

For more on this theme:
(Sudan) With the Internet blackout in Sudan, Knowledge Is Power

(Global) How Authoritarian Regimes Use the Internet to Exert Control Over Citizens

(China) China’s Long, Hot Summer of Censorship
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

How more countries plan to pass stringent privacy laws in 2019
Jonathan Greig – TechRepublic: 25 June 2019

A recently released study from data research firm Forrester indicates that many nations are passing legislation that is similar to the EU’s Government Data Protection Regulation.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Should Social Media Platforms Be Doing More To Win Back Online Trust?
https://www.cpomagazine.com/data-privacy/should-social-media-platforms-be-doing-more-to-win-back-online-trust/

(India) National centre being planned to hold and manage all public data

(U.S., Global) Why data ownership is the wrong approach to protecting privacy

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

‘UAE National Cybersecurity Strategy’ launched
Emirates News Agency: 24 June 2019

The United Arab Emirates launched a new national cyber security strategy focused on creating a safe and resilient cyber infrastructure.
http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302769739

For more on this theme:
(France) Tactical Cyber Weapons For Future French Battlefield Ops?
https://breakingdefense.com/2019/06/tactical-cyber-weapons-for-future-french-battlefield-ops/

(U.S., Iran) How cyber operations can help manage crisis escalation with Iran

(Global) Fighting and Winning the Undeclared Cyber War
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Public-private cooperation is key to France’s maritime cyber security strategy
Ed Martin – Maritime Digitalization & Communications: 27 June 2019

France’s strategy for maritime cyber security seeks cooperation between industry and the state, says Bruno Bender, the country’s maritime cyber security coordinator.

For more on this theme:
(Canada) Bank of Canada announces partnership to improve resilience in financial sector
(U.S.) Experts call for stronger partnerships to enhance cybersecurity in Los Angeles

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Exclusive: China hacked eight major computer services firms in years-long attack
Jack Stubbs, Joseph Menn and Christopher Bing – Reuters: 26 June 2019

Operation Cloud Hopper, which has been tied to the Chinese Ministry of State Security, is said to have ensnared eight technology firms in a series of sustained cyber attacks.

For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Internet Freedom Restored and Intellectual Property Protections (Guest: Tom Giovanetti)

(Latin America) How cyber-criminals are exploiting Latin America’s new digital economy

(EU) Sanctions Update – EU introduces a sanctions regime targeting cyber-attacks
https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/sanctions-update-eu-introduces-a-84147/
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

India, France pitch effective mechanism to combat terror in cyber space
Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury – The Economic Times: 21 June 2019

India and France are developing a mechanism and coordinating their efforts to combat cyber terrorism.


For more on this theme:
(Uganda) Internet penetration indicates a positive future, experts say

(Australia) Experts warn Australia needs to boost cybersecurity workforce as attacks rise

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Will Developing Nations Turn to Cybercrime to Fuel Their Economy?
Kacy Zurkus – Security Boulevard: 26 June 2019

Banks and financial services organisations, especially those in the developing world, are being heavily targeted by cyber attacks.

https://securityboulevard.com/2019/06/will-developing-nations-turn-to-cybercrime-to-fuel-their-economy/

For more on this theme:
(Africa) Is Africa cybercrime-savvy?
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/is-africa-cybercrime-savvy

(Europe, Global) Cyber criminals are winning the skills battle
https://www.enterprisetimess.co.uk/2019/06/26/cyber-criminals-are-winning-the-skills-battle/

INFORMATION SHARING

Brazil Promotes Cyberthreat Information Sharing
Andréa Barreto – Diálogo: 25 June 2019

Brazilian cyber forces are testing software used by NATO members. The software allows information about cyber threats to be quickly exchanged and will be deployed to nine other countries under the Ibero-American Cyber Defense Forum.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Privacy Concern Are Now Making Parents More Conscious About the Online Information Sharing

(Japan) 100 Japanese manufacturers harness blockchain to share data

(Europe) ENISA Reinforced as EU Cybersecurity Agency to Steer New Act

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Is Australia’s electricity grid vulnerable to the kind of cyber attacks taking place between Russia and the US?
Andrew Dowse and Mike Johnstone – The Mandarin: 28 June 2019

How vulnerable is Australia’s critical infrastructure? Is the country doing enough to protect its most critical assets?


For more on this theme:

(U.S., NATO) Cyber X-Games 2019 - Critical Network Defense with Joint Force and Multinational Focus

(U.S.) Infrastructure Cybersecurity is Wanting
https://securityboulevard.com/2019/06/infrastructure-cybersecurity-is-wanting/

(U.S.) Global Cyber Alliance And Center For Internet Security Launch Free Cybersecurity Toolkit for States And Local Election Offices
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Thousands Of ISIS Fighters Must Be Tried Or Let Go, U.N. Rights Chief Says

Suspected ISIS fighters captured in Syria and Iraq should get a fair trial or be released, said Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations high commissioner for human rights. Approximately 55,000 suspected ISIS fighters and their families have been caught and detained since the terrorist group lost its territory and was largely defeated. Many of them don’t get a fair trial, and the issue has not received enough attention, Bachelet says.

https://www.npr.org/2019/06/24/735379854/thousands-of-isis-fighters-must-be-tried-or-let-go-u-n-rights-chief-says

‘Devastating’ Islamic State Comeback Within Sight, Report Warns
Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 26 June 2019

The Islamic State is reconstituting itself across Iraq and Syria and is poised to wage an “even more aggressive insurgency” in the months ahead, according to a major new study that claims the terrorist network is far from dead and buried.


Full report:
ISIS’s Second Comeback: Assessing the Next ISIS Insurgency

For more on this theme:
ISIS leads extremist stampede to small social media platforms after campaigns for online bans
https://www.thenational.ae/world/europe/isis-leads-extremist-stampede-to-small-social-media-platforms-after-campaigns-for-online-bans-1.879981

Australian children of ISIS fighters rescued from Syria

Europeans Are ‘Losers’ for Trying to Prevent Return of Foreign Fighters, Says Pro-ISIS Group
https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/terrorism-study/europeans-are-losers-for-trying-to-prevent-return-of-foreign-fighters-says-pro-isis-group/

Cat gifs, memes and emojis: the internet culture of ISIS
https://www.thenational.ae/world/europe/cat-gifs-memes-and-emojis-the-internet-culture-of-isis-1.879516

Stripping Australian citizenship from terrorists could hamper prosecutions, watchdog says
Spotlight: Understanding women in West African violent extremist groups
Institute for Security Studies: 27 June 2019

The institute is working to understand the role of women in terrorist groups in West Africa. With more than half of the Boko Haram suicide attacks between 2011 and 2017 having been conducted by women, the idea that women are merely victims is antiquated.
https://issafrica.org/impact/spotlight-understanding-women-in-west-african-violent-extremist-groups

Al Qaeda growing stronger under Taliban’s umbrella, UN finds
Thomas Joscelyn – FDD’s Long War Journal: 23 June 2019

Al-Qaida and the Taliban are working together in Afghanistan. According to a report by a United Nations team, al-Qaida “has grown stronger operating under the Taliban umbrella across Afghanistan and is more active than in recent years.”

For more on this theme:

Afghanistan worried Taliban will overrun southern province if U.S. withdraws troops

US targeted Iranian-backed militia group in cyberattack: report

View on Africa: Negotiating with Africa’s terrorists

Pentagon Official: We Didn’t Link Iran to al-Qaeda In Hill Briefings

Made-To-Measure Qur’anic Quotations: The Incomplete Verses Of Al-Qaeda In The Islamic Maghreb

For the first time, Canada adds white supremacists and neo-Nazi groups to its terror organization list

Europe safer since Islamic State defeat but threat endures, Europol says
https://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKCN1TS1XR
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

‘We Have Been Lazy on Hate’
Conor Friedersdorf – The Atlantic: 27 June 2019
After meeting with Muslim youths in almost 100 countries, Farah Pandith, a U.S. State Department representative for the Bush and Obama administrations, says the U.S. government and corporations can do more to stop extremists from recruiting millennials.

More than 100 former Al-Shabaab combatants graduate from Baidoa Rehabilitation Centre
The United Nations said 126 former al-Shabaab combatants completed deradicalization training at Baidoa Rehabilitation Centre in Somalia and were ready for reintegration.
https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/more-100-former-al-shabaab-combatants-graduate-baidoa-rehabilitation-centre

For more on this theme:
Radicalization of people and re-socialization for radicalized returnees
Apple won’t remove app criticized as a tool for Islamic radicalization
https://www.cultofmac.com/633998/apple-wont-remove-app-criticized-for-being-tool-for-radicalization/
UN’s Bachelet: Denying Fair Trials Leads to Radicalization
https://www.voanews.com/europe/uns-bachelet-denying-fair-trials-leads-radicalization
Bangladesh’s mainstream pupils more radical than Islamic school graduates
US Institute Trains Kenyan Women to Spot Potential Terrorists
No pressure, no watchlists: How a Calgary team helps steer youth away from radicalization
Canadian gov’t taking steps to combat online hate, extremism
Lessons From a Year in the CVE Trenches
https://www.lawfareblog.com/lessons-year-cve-trenches
House Aims at Tech Failure to Halt Spread of Online Extremist Content
FINANCING TERRORISM

Payment Fraud Linked to Terrorism and Trafficking
Phil Muncaster – Infosecurity Magazine: 27 June 2019

New research from Terbium Labs finds an undeniable link between payment fraud and criminal and terrorism financing worldwide.

For more on this theme:

Israeli Ambassador: We Will 'Absolutely' Work With Arab Countries Against Iran, Claims Other Countries Don't Finance Terrorism
https://www.newsweek.com/israel-ambassador-un-arab-league-iran-terrorism-1445877

Rise in police alerts on terrorism finance involving Malta

Global watchdog gives Pakistan until October to curb terror financing

FinCEN's Evolving Approach to Lurking Threats in Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing: Director Blanco’s Remarks at NYU Law

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Judicial counterterrorism register to co-ordinate data
Government Europa: 25 June 2019

The European Union will launch a register in September that will centralize information on its member states’ judicial counterterrorism proceedings.
https://www.governmenteuropa.eu/judicial-counterterrorism-register/93721/

For more on this theme:

China says international counterterror forum a success
https://apnews.com/1b7285b9b78482d936a2726f643e3c1

BRICS: Terrorism biggest threat to humanity, says Modi

Prevent: Government’s counterterrorism programme is ‘single biggest threat’ to free speech at universities, report finds