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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Navalny Announces Launch Of New Anti-Corruption Foundation
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: 11 July 2022

Jailed Russian opposition leader Aleksei Navalny, whose Anti-Corruption Foundation was outlawed, has announced a relaunch of the group, which was known for publishing investigative reports about corruption among top Russian officials, including President Vladimir Putin.

https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-navalny-corruptionfoundation/31938527.html

Can ‘Kazakhstan 2.0’ Win the Fight Against Corruption?
Wilder Alejandro Sanchez – The National Interest: 24 June 2022

Developments in Italy have given Kazakhstan’s government a public relations win in its fight against corruption, but problems stemming from Mukhtar Ablyazov will persist.

https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/can-%e2%80%98kazakhstan-2.0%E2%80%99-win-fight-against-corruption-203173

For more on this theme:

US Distributes $92 Million to Soccer Corruption Victims

94 per cent believe corruption in Cyprus is widespread
https://cyprus-mail.com/2022/07/13/94-per-cent-believe-corruption-in-cyprus-is-widespread/

Over half of people in Belgium think corruption is still widespread
https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/254583/more-than-half-of-people-in-belgium-think-corruption-is-still-widespread

Former Moldovan Parliament Speaker Candu Targeted In Corruption Probe
https://www.rferl.org/a/former-moldovan-speaker-candu-corruption-probe/31941563.html

Ukraine must fight corruption too, says UN development chief

Hundreds protest against corruption in central China
https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/07/10/asia-pacific/china-corruption-protest/

For a quality education free of fraud and corruption — a new Recommendation adopted by the Committee of Ministers

Poll: 88% of Bulgarians see corruption as widespread
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Conflict Zones Are Magnets For Synthetic Drug Production
Aurora Weiss – IDN: 4 July 2022

Nearly 284 million people ages 15-64 used drugs worldwide in 2020, a 26% increase over the previous decade. In many countries, young people are using more drugs than those of the previous generation, according to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime’s World Drug Report 2022.


Have Mexico’s Cartels Stopped Respecting the Catholic Church?
Peter Appleby – InSight Crime: 11 July 2022

Despite Mexico ranking as the second-most devout Catholic country on the planet, clerics have found no salvation from extortion, beatings and even murder by organized crime.

https://insightcrime.org/news/have-mexicos-cartels-stopped-respecting-the-catholic-church/

For more on this theme:
Drug-smuggling “drone submarines” seized for the first time in Spain

Secret Operations: The Peruvian Charged with Laundering Massive Amounts of Drug Money

Why US-Kenya cooperation on wildlife and drug trafficking matters

Peru hails progress in Amazon war on drugs — so why is business booming?
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/06/peru-drug-war-gain-amazon-loss

The Mafia Built A Port. Now It’s a Global Cocaine Hub.

Tusi: The Pink Drug Cocktail That Tricked Latin America

Two Coca Regions in Peru, One Cocaine Shipment to Europe

Chile Receiving Synthetic Drugs Galore From Netherlands, Belgium

War Drugs: Syria Seizes 14 Million Captagon Amphetamine Pills
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/war-drugs-syria-seizes-14-million-captagon-amphetamine-pills-203331
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Myanmar wildlife trade remains opaque, despite focus on border hubs
Carolyn Cowan – Mongabay: 7 July 2022
Myanmar has some of the last refuges of rare and threatened species, such as tigers, leopards and pangolins, but lax law enforcement and porous borders make it a hotbed of illegal wildlife trade.

Biodiversity: Wild species can help feed the world
Tim Schauenberg – Deutsche Welle: July 2022
Biodiversity experts are calling for the preservation of often-endangered wild species, which could provide food and income for billions worldwide.

For more on this theme:
Review: Options for Managing and Tracing Wild Animal Trade Chains to Reduce Zoonotic Risk

Data from droppings: Researchers draw up a genetic ID map for chimps

Amazon wild west: where drugs, fish and logging are big money but life is cheap
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jul/01/amazon-brazil-drugs-fish-logging-dom-phillips-bruno-pereira

Indigenous leader who opposed illegal mining killed in Venezuela — NGO

Peru’s Amazon rainforest is threatened by an ecosystem of environment crime

Uganda’s illegal river sand miners boost rising flood risk
https://news.trust.org/item/20220706113346-i4leq

Argentine Navy Strengthens Fleet to Combat Illegal Fishing

Squid Game — Uruguay Navy Chases and Captures Chinese Fishing Vessel

Reformed poacher ditches illegal trade, now fights to save wildlife
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Can we lead the Web 3.0 policy by example?
Srinath Sridharan – The Free Press Journal: 9 July 2022
India, with its young population and large consumer market, has the chance to take the initiative in the global arena to shape Web 3.0 policies and governance.
https://www.freepressjournal.in/analysis/can-we-lead-the-web-30-policy-by-example

For more on this theme:
(Global) Why cybersecurity and governance are vital in the metaverse
(Global) Explained: How Russia-Ukraine war threatens to sabotage integrity of global internet
https://newsable.asianetnews.com/world/explained-how-russian-ukrainian-war-threatens-to-sabotage-integrity-of-global-internet-snt-reg9ma
(Africa) Digital potential squandered as African internet governance mired in chaos
(Europe, Global) EU Parliament Adopts Landmark Regulation of Internet Platforms

INTERNET FREEDOM

OPINION: India’s overbroad content takedown powers threaten internet freedom
Michael Caster – Reuters: 11 July 2022
Twitter’s legal challenge of India’s content takedown powers is a step in the right direction for the future of digital rights protections in India and elsewhere.
https://news.trust.org/item/20220711081537-dft2r

For more on this theme:
(Sudan) Sudan Became the 12th country in Africa to Block the Internet Amid Protests
https://allafrica.com/stories/202206300891.html
(China) China: A surveillance state like no other
https://theprint.in/world/china-a-surveillance-state-like-no-other/1021328/
(Turkey) Turkey blocks access to Deutsche Welle and Voice of America
https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-turkey-f963d16987d5fb1e4baa4b44fa92737c
(Russia, Ukraine) Ukraine’s colonization begins with its Internet
CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

Confronting Reality in Cyberspace: Foreign Policy for a Fragmented Internet
Adam Segal and Gordon M. Goldstein – Council on Foreign Relations: July 2022

The utopian vision of an open, reliable and secure global network has not been achieved and is unlikely ever to be realized. Today, the internet is less free, more fragmented and less secure.


For more:

Confronting Reality in Cyberspace: Foreign Policy for a Fragmented Internet
https://www.cfr.org/event/confronting-reality-cyberspace-foreign-policy-fragmented-internet

For more on this theme:

(India) Indian cyber resilience in the Indo-Pacific
https://www.gatewayhouse.in/indian-cyber-resilience-in-the-indo-pacific/

(Canada) Canada Takes on International Law in Cyberspace
https://www.ejiltalk.org/canada-takes-on-international-law-in-cyberspace/

(GLOBAL) Why India-Israel Cyber Partnership Worries Pakistan & China

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Ransomware Attack Hits French Telecoms Firm
Alex Meehan – InfoSecurity: 11 July 2022

French telecom operator La Poste Mobile has alerted customers that their data may have been compromised in a ransomware attack that targeted the company’s administrative and management systems on July 4.


For more on this theme:

(India) Hackers attack Goa’s flood monitoring system; demand Bitcoin

(Latin America) LatAm in Focus: Cyber Attacks in Costa Rica Expose a Regional Threat
https://www.as-coa.org/articles/latam-focus-cyber-attacks-costa-rica-expose-regional-threat

(U.S.) IT giant restores systems after ‘malware attack’ crippled operations

(Lithuania, Russia) Ignitis Group hit by DDoS attack as Killnet continues Lithuania campaign
https://techmonitor.ai/technology/cybersecurity/ignitis-ddos-attack-lithuania-killnet-russia
CYBERCRIME

More Developments on Cyber Crime and Russia
Eric Holdeman – Government Technology: 7 July 2022

A report hints of a closer relationship between Russian leaders and cybercriminals.


For more on this theme:

(Global) The strange business of cybercrime

(Global) Cooperation between e-crime groups is the most significant change in cybercrime

(Qatar) National Cyber Security Agency trains 15,000 on cybercrime

(U.K.) Stop paying ransoms to cyber-hacking gangs, businesses urged

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

How America’s Ports Defend Against Cyberthreats
Randy Barrett – StateTech: 13 July 2022

Local port authorities collaborate with many stakeholders in support of maritime cybersecurity initiatives.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Why Investments in Better Infrastructure Cyber Defense Are Just a Start

(U.S.) Revisions to TSA pipeline cyber rules highlight delicate balance between fed goals, industry realities

(U.S., North Korea) North Korea Attacks Health Sector With Maui Ransomware
ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

ISIS leader in Syria killed in drone strike, US says
Oren Liebermann – CNN: 12 July 2022
The U.S. carried out a drone strike in northwest Syria that killed Maher al-Agal, the leader of ISIS in Syria, U.S. Central Command said.

Kuje prison break: is Nigeria out of security options?
Malik Samuel – Institute for Security Studies: 11 June 2022
High-profile attacks expose the government’s inability to contain the expansion and potency of violent extremists and bandits.

For more on this theme:

More Than 100 Slayings in Syria Camp Since January 2021, UN Says
https://www.voanews.com/a/more-than-100-slayings-in-syria-camp-since-january-2021-un-says-6636927.html

A Global Strategy to Address the Islamic State in Africa
https://icct.nl/publication/a-global-strategy-to-address-the-islamic-state-in-africa/

Al Qaeda, Islamic State, and Targeted Online Propaganda Around India’s Domestic Political Discourse
https://www.orfonline.org/research/al-qaeda-islamic-state-and-targeted-online-propaganda/

Regional Security Support: A Vital First Step for Peace in Mozambique

French ISIS families repatriated from Syria in policy change

Call to strip Islamic State ‘Beatle’ being sent back to Britain of citizenship
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/06/30/islamic-state-beatle-aine-davis-deported-back-uk/

Islamic State threatens Central Asian and Chinese ventures in Afghanistan

Europe Starts New Chapter in Repatriations of IS-linked Citizens

ISIS released 2,400 beheading videos between 2015-20
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Counter-Terrorism in the Sahel: Increased Instability and Political Tensions
Silvia D’Amato and Edoardo Baldaro – International Centre for Counter-Terrorism: 7 July 2022

The security landscape has taken a turn across the Sahel. During the first six months of 2022, in an area already ravaged by numerous armed conflicts and jihadist insurgencies, figures show a dramatic increase in violent attacks.


Full Force: Removing Al-Shabaab’s Menace – OpEd
Ismail D. Osman – Eurasia Review: 14 July 2022

After months of confusion, tension and political theater, Somalia elected former President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud to the presidency. In a sign of the times, the vote was held in an airport hangar protected by blast walls, underscoring the recognition that Al-Shabaab remains the preeminent threat to Somali governance.


For more on this theme:

Afghanistan: Taliban Execute, ‘Disappear’ Alleged Militants

Somalia Will Talk to Al-Shabaab When Time Is Right: President

Propaganda, Narratives and Influence in Latin America: Iran, Hezbollah and Al-Tajammu
https://ict.org.il/propaganda-narratives-influence-operations-latin-america/

Iran and Hezbollah Mentor Terrorist Organizations on Propaganda: The Hamas and Islamic Jihad Case
https://ict.org.il/iran-hezbollah-mentor-terrorist-organizations/

‘It’s our system’: Taliban leader hits out at foreign demands on Afghan regime
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/01/taliban-leader-hits-out-foreign-demands-afghan-government

UN Rights Council: Taliban Seek to Erase Women, Girls From Public Life

New Zealand Designates US Proud Boys Terrorist Group

It’s Time to Designate Wagner Group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization
https://www.lawfareblog.com/its-time-designate-wagner-group-foreign-terrorist-organization
RADICALIZATION

Three arrests after police action against religious extremist propaganda in Germany
EUROPOL: 30 June 2022

The three individuals are suspected members of the so-called “Caliphate State,” a banned radical Islamist organization.


For more on this theme:

Bangladesh to start de-radicalising campaign for jailed Islamists
https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/bangladesh-to-start-de-radicalising-campaign-for-jailed-islamists-122070101054_1.html

Inside the defector programmes battling to keep peace in the Philippines
https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2022/06/28/MILF-conflict-philippines-extremism-isis

The Persistent Challenge of Extremism in Bangladesh
https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/06/persistent-challenge-extremism-bangladesh

CONFLICT AND CRIME

Swiss attorney general warns trading looted commodities could be war crime
Reuters: 14 July 2022

Stefan Blättler said that Swiss-based commodities-trading firms dealing with stolen raw materials, notably from Ukraine, could trigger war-crime charges.

https://www.reuters.com/article/swiss-commodities/swiss-attorney-general-warns-trading-looted-commodities-could-be-war-crime-idUSL8N2YV1LY

For more on this theme:

Liberia on the Verge of Becoming an Organized Crime Hotspot Again

Criminal Armed Groups Compete with the State and Each Other
https://urbanviolence.org/criminal-armed-groups-in-brazil/

http://opiniojuris.org/2022/07/11/what-is-a-mass-grave-why-protect-mass-graves-how-to-protect-mass-graves/

Petro Is Heading for a Showdown With Colombia’s Armed Forces

Russia: Forcible Disappearances of Ukrainian Civilians
https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/07/14/russia-forcible-disappearances-ukrainian-civilians
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

How Russia’s current war in Ukraine echoes its Crimean War of the 1850s
Greg Myre – NPR: 13 July 2022

Here’s a widely held view of Russia’s war: Russia had a more powerful army and expected a quick victory. It didn’t think Western powers would intervene. Yet a poorly planned military campaign led to a fight much tougher than expected. To be clear, we’re not talking about Russia’s current war in Ukraine. We’re talking about Russia’s war in Crimea in the 1850s.

https://www.npr.org/2022/07/13/1106123496/russia-ukraine-invasion-crimean-war-history

For more on this theme:

How to Tame a Tyrant
https://cepa.org/how-to-tame-a-tyrant/

Ukraine weapon use shows way for Taiwan: US
https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2022/07/15/2003781800

Building a better Ukraine: Rule of law is essential for post-war prosperity
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/building-a-better-ukraine-rule-of-law-is-essential-for-post-war-prosperity/

Rights Group Says Hundreds Of Prisoners In Russia's North Caucasus Recruited For War In Ukraine
https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-penitentiaries-recruitment-ukraine-war/31940102.html

U.S. asks Russia to recognise fighters held in Ukraine as combatants, Ifax says

Protection Or Cover-Up? Ukraine Destroyed Secret Documents In Major Criminal Cases As Russia Invaded
https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-destroyed-secret-documents-criminal-cases-russia-invasion/31935783.html

Kazakhstan Thumbs its Nose at Putin
https://cepa.org/kazakhstan-thumbs-its-nose-at-putin/

Ukraine war: Russia's G20 walkout heightens tensions at fractious summit as China's rise continues

Ukraine needs more international support
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/econographics/ukraine-needs-more-international-support-now/

Ukraine military sees spike in female volunteers amid war with Russia

Russia's War in Ukraine Is Driving Global Inflation. Here’s How Much.
https://www.barrons.com/articles/war-in-ukraine-driving-global-inflation-51657294183

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is also Iran's loss
https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2022/07/07/russias-invasion-of-ukraine-is-also-irans-loss/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Two exhausted armies are battling for eastern Ukraine. Can either of them strike a decisive blow?

Russia's War on Ukraine: How to Get to Negotiations
https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/07/russias-war-ukraine-how-get-negotiations

Putin weaponizes Russian passports in his genocidal war against Ukraine

Saving Ourselves by Saving Ukraine

Report: Lessons learned from Russia’s cyberattacks targeting Ukraine

Hackers linked to the Chinese government increasingly target Russia, analysis suggests
https://www.cyberscoop.com/china-hacks-russia-ukraine-espionage-nato/

The U.S. and EU Are Better Off Without Asia’s Support for Russia Energy Sanctions
https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/07/07/u.s.-and-eu-are-better-off-without-asia-s-support-for-russia-energy-sanctions-pub-87447

Analysis: Sanctions on Russia's debt entangle default insurance payouts

The Suwałki Gap: why this small part of Europe could have global implications

Possible Assumptions Useful for Gaming the First Year of the Ukrainian Conflict

Tech to the Rescue: Helping to Save Ukraine
https://cepa.org/tech-to-the-rescue-helping-to-save-ukraine/

Risk or opportunity? How Russia sees a changing MENA region
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/risk-or-opportunity-how-russia-sees-a-changing-mena-region/

Summer resolution: How to sustain public support for Ukraine
https://ecfr.eu/article/summer-resolution-how-to-sustain-public-support-for-ukraine/

Ukraine’s cyber agency tracks ‘significant increase’ in malware-directed attacks
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Nord Stream nightmare: Has Putin stopped Europe's gas for good?**

**‘As Much As It Takes, As Long As It Takes’: What The West Should Do To Support Ukraine**

**News Wrap: Ukraine and Russia hold first direct talks in months**

**Is Russia Determined To Stir Up Inter-Zhuz Confrontation In Kazakhstan And Divide It Into Several States? – Analysis**

**Analysis: Vladimir Putin’s Plan A in Ukraine failed, but his revised theory of victory is coming into view**

**Analysis: Geopolitical situation leads Kazakhstan to diversify energy routes**

**Four (updated) ways the war in Ukraine might end**

**Syria Insight: Russia’s border aid veto threatens millions with starvation**
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/analysis/syria-insight-russias-border-aid-veto-threatens-millions

**Poland Begins to Fortify a New Iron Curtain**
https://cepa.org/poland-begins-to-fortify-the-new-iron-curtain/

**An Alternative Policy for Enduring Support for Ukraine**
https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/alternative-policy-enduring-support-ukraine

**Russian-occupied regions of Ukraine at risk from infections and epidemics**

**Politics Teach-in Series: Is Russia’s Ukraine invasion justified under international law? Professor Martha Bradley weighs in**
https://www.ru.ac.za/latestnews/politicsteach-inseriesisrussiasukraineinvasionjustifiedunderinternati-1.html

**Russian Propaganda — Words No Longer Matter**
https://cepa.org/russian-propaganda-words-no-longer-matter/

**The Long War in Ukraine, With Michael Kofman**
https://www.cfr.org/podcasts/long-war-ukraine-michael-kofman
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia: Orthodox Priest Detained For Opposing War ‘Outraged By Absurdity Of Accusations’

Putin’s energy weapon: Europe must be ready for Russian gas blackmail

Kazakhstan Wary of its Russian Ally after the Invasion of Ukraine

Putin Deploys Comrade Stalin’s Tactics
https://cepa.org/putin-deploys-comrade-stalins-tactics/

How COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine could change EU-Taiwan relations

The Arab World and the Ukraine conflict: The quest for nonalignment

EU approves one billion euros in financial aid to Ukraine
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2120941/world

Ukraine on new war footing, having ‘tremendous successes in striking Russia’s military stockpiles’

Russians Offered Three Times Average Salary to Fight in Ukraine

Russia’s war on Ukraine takes toll on civilian health services: UN
https://www.aacom.tr/en/russia-ukraine-war/russias-war-on-ukraine-takes-toll-on-civilian-health-services-un/2633311

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has pushed Somalia towards famine
https://www.npr.org/2022/07/13/1111244753/russias-invasion-of-ukraine-has-pushed-somalia-towards-famine

Russia Resorting to ‘Obsolete’ Gear, ‘Ad Hoc’ Reinforcements in Ukraine: UK

A Global Crisis: Tackling the International Fallout of Russia’s War in Ukraine
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Belarus Gives Russia Control of Airfield Less Than 20 Miles From Ukraine

Russia's War On Ukraine Is Deeply Unpopular In Belarus

In Ukraine war, a race to acquire smarter, deadlier drones
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-kyiv-technology-17a364a50a9d7861c59ea423c7491458

Russia jails opposition figure for criticizing its military
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-prisons-moscow-boris-nemtsov-alexei-navalny-81cb8ca-52c76879873a6defa31ff4c8d

U.S. tells China that its support for Russia in Ukraine complicates relations

Will the war in Ukraine fuel nuclear proliferation?