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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Eastern Europe Witnesses a Quiet Revolution
Stratfor: 15 July 2019

Weary of slow progress against corruption and organized crime, Eastern European voters are demanding greater transparency from their governments. This trend could help reconcile Eastern and Western Europe, but it could also feed populist political movements.

WHERE ARE AFRICA’S BILLIONS?
Transparency International: 11 July 2019

Corruption in Africa is keeping many of the continent’s people poor, and foreign companies and international financial centers are complicit in that corruption.
https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/where_are_africas_billions

For more on this theme:
Guatemala’s state corruption and the heirs of colonial privilege

Orange’s Iraq misadventure shows how EU fails companies abroad

Armenian government moves to boost transparency
https://eurasianet.org/armenian-government-moves-to-boost-transparency

France to back Romanian for EU prosecutor, top MEP says
https://www.politico.eu/article/france-to-back-romanian-for-eu-prosecutor-mep-says/

‘Tip of the iceberg’ as police officers fired after corruption and security inquiries

South Africa’s Jacob Zuma denies being ‘king’ of corruption

The EU won’t, and shouldn’t, fix the Western Balkans

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Resurgence of Coca in Putumayo Reflects Colombia’s Failed Strategy
Luisa María Acosta – InSight Crime: 12 July 2019

Coca production is booming in a Colombian region once controlled by the FARC terrorist group. The government’s failure to deliver on security promises and fully fund crop-replacement agreements has contributed to the resumption of coca production.
Inside the 21st-century British criminal underworld
Duncan Campbell – The Guardian: 4 July 2019
Organized crime in the United Kingdom (and Europe) has globalized, from a few dozen “family firms” to thousands of organized crime groups from all over the world with diversified portfolios, both criminal and legal.

For more on this theme:
Cocaine smuggling: The bizarre tactics used to hide drugs
Is the Jalisco Cartel Winning the Battle for Mexico’s Caribbean?
Medical Marijuana Takes Over Asia Despite Duterte’s Drug War
https://www.ibtimes.com/medical-marijuana-takes-over-asia-despite-dutertes-drug-war-2806532
Watch: U.S. Coast Guard apprehends narco-sub with 16,000 pounds of cocaine
Former FARC leader’s arrest sought in blow to Colombia’s peace deal
https://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKCN1U42NK
Wealthy Fishermen Ran Major Drug Trafficking Rings in Costa Rica
US officials want $12.6 billion from El Chapo. His attorney says he doesn’t have ‘all that money’

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Permafrost thaw sparks fear of ‘gold rush’ for mammoth ivory
Andrew Roth – The Guardian: 14 July 2019
As the Siberian permafrost softens in a warming climate, the remains of woolly mammoths, extinct for thousands of years, are being dug up to feed demand for the tusk ivory. The trade is largely unregulated, but Russian experts say that needs to change.

Crackdown on Illegal Mining Won’t End Ecuador’s Gold Rush
James Bargent and Mayra Alejandra Bonilla – InSight Crime: 16 July 2019
Ecuador’s police and military drove away thousands of illegal gold miners in the country’s northern region after groups of armed Colombian paramilitaries moved in and violently asserted control.
For more on this theme:

**NGO: Illegal fishing potentially rife in the Mediterranean**

**Drones could be used to herd rhinos away from poaching hotspots**

**Send in the troops: Congo raises the stakes on illegal mining**
https://in.reuters.com/article/congo-mining-insight-idINKCN1UC0CA

**Sharing data key in fight against illegal fishing**

**Tanzania: Vigorous Bid to End Poaching Demanded**
https://allafrica.com/stories/201907150662.html

**FSB seized documents in Novgorod Ministry of Forestry due to illegal logging**

**Asean resolve crucial to tackle illegal fishing woes**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION**

**Searching for Keith**
Sarah Tory – Hakai Magazine: 9 July 2019
A fisheries observer who sailed the world’s oceans monitoring catches and gathering data to conserve the world’s fisheries disappeared at sea after seemingly stumbling onto a human trafficking ring operating aboard a fleet of Taiwanese fishing boats.
https://www.hakaimagazine.com/features/searching-for-keith/

**Out of Eden Walk: A storyteller chronicles the mass migrations that define our age**
Paul Salopek – National Geographic: August 2019
The United Nations estimates that 1 in 7 humans alive today are migrants of some sort. A journalist traces the path of man’s ancient migration out of Africa on foot and in the process encounters today’s migrant communities.

For more on this theme:

**‘Please Save Me’: Pakistani ‘Brides’ Plead For Help From China Amid Trafficking Claims**
Blocking or Aiding Asylum Seekers? The U.S.-Canada “Safe Third Country” Agreement and Examples from Europe

THE UNLIKELY NEW GATEWAY FOR AFRICAN MIGRANTS TO THE AMERICAS: ECUADOR

UN agency helps stranded Ethiopians return home, ending ‘harrowing migration ordeal’

Telangana: Police busts child trafficking racket, rescues 54 children

Trump’s Incendiary Rhetoric Is Only Accelerating Immigration

Addressing Modern Slavery Inside And Outside The UK

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Does the Internet Need More or Less Regulation?
Roxana Radu – East-West Institute: 8 July 2019
Representatives of government, civil society and business are increasingly calling for more regulation of the internet – of markets, services and even speech and behavior. Would more regulation solve problems, and if so, what kind of regulation?
https://www.eastwest.ngo/idea/does-internet-need-more-or-less-regulation

For more on this theme:
(U.S., EU, Global) Road to Adequacy, Part II: Can California Apply Under the U.S. Constitution?
https://www.lawfareblog.com/road-adequacy-part-ii-can-california-apply-under-us-constitution

(Uganda) Uganda: Government and Regulator Want to Take Control of Local Ixp - the Latest in a Disturbing Pattern of Regulatory Interventions
https://allafrica.com/stories/201907150795.html

(Nigeria) Embrace common direction toward sustainable internet governance, NCC urges stakeholders
INTERNET FREEDOM

The End of the Free Internet Is Near
Declan McCullagh – Reason: 12 July 2019 (August/September issue)

The internet has enabled free speech for everyone, thriving with minimal government oversight. Now some people want to regulate the internet precisely because they don’t like the content of that free speech.

https://reason.com/2019/07/12/the-end-of-the-free-internet-is-near/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Access Now on the Joint Declaration “Challenges to freedom of expression in the next decade”

(Ethiopia) Ethiopia’s leader promised to protect freedom of expression. But he keeps flicking the internet kill switch

(U.K.) The next prime minister will decide if Britain continues a damaging race to the bottom on internet freedom

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

You won’t believe the ‘shocking’ ways your Facebook photos are tracked
James Gelinas – Komando: 15 July 2019

Facebook, already facing heavy fines for privacy violations, attaches coding to uploaded photos that allows advertisers to track users across online platforms wherever those photos appear on the internet.

https://www.komando.com/happening-now/580901/you-wont-believe-the-shocking-ways-your-facebook-photos-are-tracked

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) America mulls regulating facial recognition

(U.K., Global) Increased work mobility prompts businesses to go Zero-Trust
https://www.scmagazineuk.com/increased-work-mobility-prompts-businesses-go-zero-trust/article/1591152

(U.S.) Huge rock, cracked windshield helps hacker land a $10k Tesla security bug
CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

U.S. Offensive Cyber Operations against Economic Cyber Intrusions: An International Law Analysis – Part II

Would offensive cyber operations violate the principles of sovereignty and nonintervention, and therefore, international law? It depends on the circumstances.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Cryptocurrencies Pose National Security Threat, Mnuchin Says

(U.S.) Draft House Bill Would Keep Big Tech Out Of Cryptocurrency

(G7, Global) G7 finance chiefs pour cold water on Facebook’s digital coin plans
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g7-economy/france-says-facebooks-libra-not-yet-viable-as-g7-minister-meet-idUSKCN1UC0IC

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

What NotPetya Tells Us About the New Era of Cyber Warfare Two Years Later

The NotPetya cyber attacks proved that individual companies have neither the resources nor expertise to defend their networks from nation state-level attacks. National-level defensive capabilities and information should be provided to industry as needed, and companies must work with each other and with government.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Building Resilience in the Fifth Domain
https://www.cfr.org/blog/building-resilience-fifth-domain

(U.S.) How federal agencies can better manage supply-chain cyber risks

(U.S.) TRUTH OR CYBER-CONSEQUENCES: GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR SUSPENDED AFTER SUFFERING CYBERATTACK AND DATA BREACH
PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**China’s Digital Silk Road Could Decide the US-China Competition**
Clayton Cheney – The Diplomat: 17 July 2019

The Digital Silk Road is a key component in China’s plan to become a technological superpower and the world’s leading provider of physical digital infrastructure. But along with the hardware, China is exporting digital authoritarianism.


*For more on this theme:
(U.S.) YouTube cracks down on stream-ripping sites that pirate music

(U.K., Germany, EU) Progress stalls on EU plan for cost-cutting patent court
https://www.ft.com/content/49080758-8ac5-11e9-b8cb-26a9caa9d67b

(U.S.) Viasat wins $49 million lawsuit against supplier to Cisco

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

**Securing 5G Networks**
Robert Williams – Council on Foreign Relations: 15 July 2019

Revolutionary 5G telecommunications will create extensive opportunity and major cyber security challenges. Huawei and other Chinese 5G infrastructure makers pose real security risks, but excluding them won’t secure 5G networks. That requires a strategy that includes technical, regulatory, legal and diplomatic measures and investments in research and cyber security training.

https://www.cfr.org/report/securing-5g-networks

*For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Elon Musk’s Next Wild Promise

(U.S., Global) 5G is spotty now but will get so much better. Here’s why

(Europe) Galileo, Galileo, Galileo, where to go? Navigation satellite signals flip from degraded to full TITSUP* over span of four days
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2019/07/15/galileo_outage/

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

**Assange ran election interference out of Ecuadorian Embassy, surveillance docs show**
Teri Robinson – SC Magazine: 15 July 2019

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange met with hackers and Russians while living in Ecuador’s Embassy in London. Assange was especially active in June 2016, the month the Democratic National Committee in the United States revealed it was hacked.

For more on this theme:

(Bulgaria) Bulgaria Links Hacking Attack To Plans To Buy Military Jets From U.S.
https://www.rferl.org/a/bulgaria-links-hacking-attack-to-plans-to-buy-military-jets-from-u-s-/30058337.html

(Global) TrickBot malware learns how to spam, ensnares 250M email addresses
https://techcrunch.com/2019/07/12/trickbot-spam-millions-emails/

(Australia, Global) GoFundMe: Do We Actually Know Where Our Money Is Going?

INFORMATION SHARING

Machine politics: Europe and the AI revolution
Ulrike Franke and Paola Sartori – European Council on Foreign Relations: 11 July 2019
Artificial intelligence will revolutionize the world economy and just about every other facet of life. European nations are beginning to prepare companies, labor markets and citizens for the expected disruption.
https://www.ecfr.eu/publications/summary/machine_politics_europe_and_the_ai_revolution

For more on this theme:

(Australia) NSW government launches IDCare Identity Recovery Service

(U.S.) DIB Cyber Threat Program Is a Win-Win for Public-Private Information Sharing
https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/perspective-dib-cyber-threat-program-is-a-win-win-for-public-private-information-sharing/

(U.S.) Stronger Information-Sharing, Partnerships Remain Key to Electric Grid Security
https://www.meritalk.com/articles/stronger-information-sharing-partnerships-remain-key-to-electric-grid-security/

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Next Cyber Battleground
Rob Knake – Foreign Affairs: 19 July 2019
Much public attention has been paid to Russia’s interference in elections in the United States and elsewhere, but the real Russian cyber threat is to U.S. critical infrastructure, including the power grid.

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) The Destabilizing Danger of Cyberattacks on Missile Systems
https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/destabilizing-danger-cyberattacks-missile-systems

(U.K., Australia) New type of phishing attack targets UK finance sector

(NATO) Cybersecurity of NATO’s Space-based Strategic Assets
https://reader.chathamhouse.org/cybersecurity-nato-s-space-based-strategic-assets#
ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Filmed behind bars ISIS fighter Mohamed Amrouni expresses ‘deep regret’
Lindsey Snell – The Investigative Journal: 7 July 2019
At a prisoner-of-war camp in Syria, a Tunisian ISIS member describes his life journey, starting with the Arab Spring in Tunisia and ending in disillusionment with the terrorist group he had joined.

Could foreign Daesh suspects be tried in northeast Syria?
Arab News: 16 July 2019
The autonomous Kurd-led administration in northeast Syria suggests setting up an international tribunal to try captured ISIS foreign fighters. Locating it in the region where the crimes were committed allows victims to participate in the process.
http://www.arabnews.com/node/1526606/middle-east

For more on this theme:
Collecting evidence to use in holding Daesh accountable for crimes against humanity

US transports alleged American ISIS fighter back from Syria to face trial

Suspected Isis follower should be allowed return home, say Louth TDs

Morocco sentences three to death for killing Scandinavian hikers

When Islamic State came, Iraqi monks had just finished hiding manuscripts

Iraq deported 473 foreign ‘ISIS children’: Ministry spokesperson
https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/b03c749a-7327-4204-a3aa-5bfe3dd2f827

German police raid suspected Islamists’ homes

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Terrorism risk in African region similar to Iraq and Syria, conference hears
Sally Hayden – The Irish Times: 14 July 2019
The Sahel region of Africa, as a front line of the fight against terrorism, could face the same fate as Syria and Iraq unless it gets support from the rest of the world.
Serious Doubts Surround Alleged EPP Attack in Paraguay
Parker Asmann – InSight Crime: 16 July 2019

A terrorist group claiming to represent indigenous tribes attacked a farm in a marijuana-producing area along the Paraguay-Brazil border. Authorities think it was really an attack by the Paraguayan People’s Army connected to drug trafficking.


For more on this theme:
Italy seizes ‘combat-ready’ missile in raids on far right

Somalia Hotel Attack Kills 33
https://www.voanews.com/africa/somalia-hotel-attack-kills-33

Hezbollah warns Iran able to bombard Israel if war starts

Turkish diplomat among two shot dead in Iraqi Kurdistan

Killings in Congo’s north-east spark fears of a return to war

Emanuele Ottolenghi: To fight Hezbollah, Latin American countries first need to acknowledge it exists

Keep the PFLP on the EU Terror List
https://www.meforum.org/58685/keep-the-pflp-on-eu-terror-list

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Islamic State Terror Group Ramping Up Video Messaging
Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: July 2019

ISIS’ media organs are pumping out propaganda videos of terrorists around the world pledging allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, trying to prove that the group is still active and strong, despite losing its “caliphate.”

https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/islamic-state-terror-group-ramping-video-messaging

The End of the Caliphate and Its Consequences for Islamist Recruitment
Robin Simcox – The Heritage Foundation: 15 July 2019

The destruction of ISIS will not reduce radicalization because ISIS was more a beneficiary than a cause of radicalization. Most of the factors that draw people to Islamist ideology remain in place.


For more on this theme:
The Taliban Promise to Protect Women. Here’s Why Women Don’t Believe Them.
Beware Of Extremists -- And Women! Uzbeks Get Islamic Sermons At Airport Before Flying To Russia

Kosovo, the global far right, and the threat to liberalism
https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_kosovo_the_global_far_right_and_the_threat_to_liberalism

Women Are Pivotal in the War on Terror
http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/07/women-pivotal-war-terror/

Law enforcers neutralised terror risk post-Sri Lanka attack

Nearly two dozen countries urge China to close Uyghur detention camps

Rebels without a Cause: Russia’s Proxies in Eastern Ukraine

FINANCING TERRORISM

How do terrorists fund their activities? Some do it legally
Sylvia Laksmi – The Jakarta Post: 15 July 2019

Indonesian terrorist group Jema’ah Islamiyah ran a palm oil plantation as one of its primary forms of financing. The plantation also provided good cover for purchasing large quantities of chemicals for bombmaking.


Human and Civil Rights Groups Oppose the Combating Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing, and Counterfeiting Act of 2019
Human Rights Watch: 17 July 2019

Human and civil rights groups authored a letter to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee opposing the proposed anti-money laundering and terror financing bill, complaining of vagueness, privacy violations and overcriminalization.


For more on this theme:

How Iraqi-Iranian militias’ arms trafficking networks bypass US sanctions

Afghanistan’s Forests Are Turning a Profit for the Islamic State
https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/07/15/afghanistans-forests-are-turning-a-profit-for-the-islamic-state/

Regulators Tightening Scrutiny Of Iran Over Terror Financing

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Anti-Money Laundering And Counter-Terrorist Financing

Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed arrested in Pakistan

Government creates anti-terrorism database

Buhari: Laundered billion dollars used to finance terrorism

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Creating a Real Peace in Afghanistan
Anthony H. Cordesman – Center for Strategic and International Studies: 17 July 2019
The long war in Afghanistan, marked by mismanagement and strategic errors, leaves only imperfect and risky diplomatic options for American policymakers.

What Did the Intra-Afghan Dialogue Accomplish?
R. Maxwell Bone – The Diplomat: 17 July 2019
The first serious talks between members of Afghanistan’s government and the Taliban achieved little. The main accomplishment was simply getting the two parties to begin negotiating an end to the 18-year war.

For more on this theme:

Counterterrorism and the Rule of Law

Assessing against and moving past the “funnel” model of counterterrorism communication

Israel to plant trees near Gaza border homes to thwart anti-tank missile attacks

Pentagon report says changes in Afghan war strategy have produced better results

Times Investigation: Trump administration has gutted programs aimed at detecting weapons of mass destruction

Trump Administration Turns To South America For Help With Anti-Iran Coalition

Albalyalde: PNP to review, strengthen strategies to fight terrorism
https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1143280/albalyalde-pnp-to-review-strengthen-strategies-to-fight-terrorism