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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

**Fighting Corruption: What Works/What Doesn't**  
Brendan O’Boyle – Americas Quarterly: 22 July 2019  
*Americas Quarterly* magazine assesses 10 of the top anti-corruption reforms and practices to determine which are most effective.  
https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/fighting-corruption-what-works-what-doesnt

**Corruption Lies at the Heart of Venezuela’s Chaos**  
Eduardo Salcedo-Albaran – Stratfor: 25 July 2019  
Venezuela’s corruption has the country mired in humanitarian, economic and institutional crises.  
https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/corruption-lies-heart-venezuelas-chaos-maduro-guiado

For more on this theme:  
**Fighting Corruption: An Islamic Perspective**  
**How to Stop Corruption — and Save Democracy — in Latin America**  
https://www.as-coa.org/articles/how-stop-corruption-and-save-democracy-latin-america  
**Target Corruption’s Roots, Not Just Its Leaves**  
https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/tackling-corruption-roots  
**Corruption and Violence, Not Failed Ideologies, Are Driving Central America’s Exodus**  
**Bulgaria’s anti-corruption chief resigns over apartment scandal**  
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-bulgaria-corruption/bulgarias-anti-corruption-chief-resigns-over-apartment-scandal-idUSKCN1UQ1PN  
**Iran’s crackdown on corruption reaches elites**  
**South African officials to receive ‘lifestyle audits’ in anti-corruption drive**  
**Sri Lanka’s anti-corruption agency to introduce sweeping legislation to curb graft**  
**AgainstTheGrain: Taking corruption seriously**  
**Is Kenya’s anti-corruption drive working?**  
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Inside Switzerland’s Radical Drug Policy Innovation

Switzerland dramatically changed how it approached its drug policy with great success. This article examines how that effort affected the social innovation process and what lessons can be learned.
https://ssir.org/articles/entry/inside_switzerlands_radical_drug_policy_innovation

Medical marijuana laws’ economic impact on organised crime
Evelina Gavrilova, Takuma Kamada and Floris Zoutman – London School of Economics: July 2019

The legalization of medical marijuana has had profound effects on organized crime and drug trafficking. Legalization makes trafficking less profitable and thereby reduces violence.

For more on this theme:
Is an End in Sight to the Longest Running World War?
https://www.cato.org/blog/end-sight-longest-running-world-war

A Safe Place to Use Drugs: Lessons from Europe’s Supervised Consumption Sites
https://www.thefix.com/supervised-consumption-sites

Fentanyl, 50 times stronger than morphine, makes the drug scene more deadly

The Drug Epidemic Is Landing More Kids in Foster Care Than Ever

Where the war on weed still rages

China will find it hard to cut fentanyl trade
https://www.aei.org/publication/china-will-find-it-hard-to-cut-fentanyl-trade/

A new report on state’s response to drug possession and decriminalisation has been published. Here’s what it has to say

Illicit Supply of Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Opioids: Transitioning Markets and Evolving Challenges
https://www.rand.org/pubs/testimonies/CT515.html

The Guardian view on the case for legalising drugs: time to be reasonable
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

TrailGuard AI: AI-powered cameras deployed to protect against poachers

Inmarsat, a satellite communications firm, is working with environmental nonprofit RESOLVE to stop poachers across Africa. Using the TrailGuard artificial intelligence system, humans can be detected along trails and notifications are immediately sent to park rangers.
https://www.verdict.co.uk/trailguard-ai/

Stringent laws alone cannot end illegal wildlife trade, mindset change of customers must to demolish multibillion-dollar market
Ankita Virmani – Firstpost: 26 July 2019

Changing consumers' behavior is necessary to stop the flow of wildlife parts into Asian nations. Additionally, disrupting the criminal networks that conduct the poaching is critical for success.

For more on this theme:

The challenges of campaigning against wildlife trafficking in Vietnam

Using Myanmar as major transit point, illegal wildlife trade spreads in region

Experts: Forensic science ‘a must’ to combat illegal wildlife trade

Just ‘Days’ Left to Save 6 to 19 Remaining Vaquitas

China’s Desire for Rosewood Drives Illegal Timber Trade in Ghana

Bolivia Forestry Officials Profit from Harvest of Illegal Wood

Kenya maintains fight against ivory trade

Plan being evolved to curb illegal wildlife trade

Southeast Asia a Hub of Illegal Wildlife and Timber Trade: UN
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Human Trafficking Has a Hidden Cause — and It’s on the Rise Worldwide
Prachi Vidwans and Malaak Jamal – Time: 30 July 2019

With an estimated 40.3 million victims of modern slavery, human trafficking is a widespread scourge. Human trafficking has many causes, but one is hardly ever discussed — authoritarianism.
https://time.com/5638667/human-trafficking-cause/

Trafficking and the corruption, collusion nexus
Marcel van der Watt – Mail & Guardian: 26 July 2019

The connection between the human trafficking problem in South Africa and the country’s rampant corruption cannot be overlooked. Officials are turning a blind eye to modern slavery for kickbacks and bribes.
https://mg.co.za/article/2019-07-26-00-trafficking-and-the-corruption-collusion-nexus

For more on this theme:
Conflict, climate change among factors that increase ‘desperation that enables human trafficking to flourish’, says UN chief

Opinion: It’s time to end human trafficking

‘Elite inspectors’ to fight human trafficking in Colombia

ASEAN’s Safe Migration Campaign comes up short
https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2019/08/01/aseans-safe-migration-campaign-comes-up-short/

Migrant crisis: Self-immolation exposes UN failures in Libya

How Indian Female Workers Are Being Trafficked To The Gulf

Migrants and their Vulnerability to Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery and Forced Labour

To Reduce Migration, Trump Might Be Right About Cutting Foreign Aid
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The Promise and Peril of Internet Governance
Open Society Foundations: 30 July 2019

The internet has morphed dramatically from its intended design. What can be done about it?

For more on this theme:
(Russia) Russia Solidifies Grip on its Cyberspace, via the Sovereign Internet Law

(Global) How I learned to stop worrying and love the splinternet

INTERNET FREEDOM

Kazakhstan Internet Surveillance Plan Involves Intercepting Citizens’ Web Traffic
Nicole Lindsey – CPO Magazine: 1 August 2019

Governments around the world have fought against encryption, but Kazakhstan’s aggressive mass surveillance policy sets an alarming new precedent that may spread to other countries.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Protecting The Internet From Government Censorship Is Key To The Future Of Global Trade

(Iran) Iranians Defy State’s Censorship on the Internet to Browse the Web
https://koddos.net/blog/iranians-defy-states-censorship-on-the-internet-to-browse-the-web/

(Cuba) Cuban government cautiously expands Internet access
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Facebook’s Like Button Makes Websites Liable, Top EU Court Rules
Stephanie Bodoni – Bloomberg; 29 July 2019

Facebook’s “like” button makes third-party websites responsible for processing people’s data under the European Union’s privacy rules, according to the EU’s top court.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Government breaches – can you trust the US Government with your data?
https://www.comparitech.com/blog/vpn-privacy/us-government-breaches/

(Global) Internet of Things Security Often Overlooked in Cyber Defence

(Ghana) Cyber Security In Ghana: Talk Or Action?

CYBER THREATS

Mobile Malware and Mobile Attackers are Getting More Sophisticated
Kevin Townsend – Security Week; 31 July 2019

Weaker and less mature security measures, coupled with increased proliferation and usage, have enticed hackers to target mobile devices.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Is ‘Pearl Harbor’ still a valid cyber metaphor?

(China, Eastern Asia) Chinese APT “Operation LagTime IT” Targets Government Information Technology Agencies in Eastern Asia
NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

**The Report, Episode 2: Hack, Dump, Divide**  
Susan Hennessey and Benjamin Wittes – Lawfare: 26 July 2019

This podcast about the Mueller report focuses on the Russian hacking operation, the theft of documents and emails, and the leaks of the stolen materials timed to impact the U.S. election.  

*For more on this theme:*

*(Global) Images are the language of the brain*  

*(Global) Case studies in risk and regulation.*  

*(Global) Podcast: Adapting to Evolving Data Privacy Regulations*  
https://securityintelligence.com/media/podcast-adapting-to-evolving-data-privacy-regulations/

CYBER DEFENSES

**Cyberdeterrence Needs People, Not Weapons**  
Elisabeth Braw – Foreign Policy: 19 July 2019

Mass mobilization might be the best line of defense in a world of online warfare.  

*For more on this theme:*

*(Global) Systematically Preempting Cybersecurity Threats And Damages*  

*(Global) Using Threat Trends to Protect Network Resources*  
https://www.securityweek.com/using-threat-trends-protect-network-resources

*(Global) Fact vs Fiction: The Truth About Breach and Attack Simulation Tools*  
HUMAN RESOURCES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Summer Camp Aims To Net Future Cyber Security Professionals, As Jobs Go Unfilled
Kathleen J. Davis – NPR: 23 July 2019

The current and looming shortage of cyber security workers is common knowledge. One university is attempting to fill the void by enticing high school students to enter the profession.


For more on this theme:
(Singapore) Singapore tackling cyber talent shortage one capture the flag challenge at a time

(U.S.) Brooklyn program aims to hack diversity in cybersecurity

(U.S.) Cybersecurity training is up, but a hiring gap remains
https://www.hrdive.com/news/cybersecurity-training-is-up-but-a-hiring-gap-remains/559839/

(U.S.) Attracting, Recruiting, and Retaining Successful Cyberspace Operations Officers
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2618.html

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

What happened at the military’s biggest cyber training exercise to date
Mark Pomerleau – Fifth Domain: 24 July 2019

The U.S. Army’s Persistent Cyber Training Environment (PCTE) hopes to become the premier cyber training and exercise method. PCTE is an online program that allows U.S. Cyber Command members to log on from anywhere in the world for training and mission rehearsals.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Army refines wargames for multi-domain combat

(U.S.) New York authorities test their defenses against cyber attacks

(Indonesia, U.S.) US, Indonesian forces hunt for cybersecurity threats
CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The global internet is powered by vast undersea cables. But they’re vulnerable.
James Griffiths – CNN: 26 July 2019

The amount of data traveling across undersea cables has increased exponentially over the years, yet it remains vulnerable to spying, malicious attacks and natural disasters.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Critical Industries at Risk from Eleven Zero-day Flaws in Real Time Operating System

https://www.securityweek.com/critical-industries-risk-eleven-zero-day-flaws-real-time-operating-system

(Global) Critical Infrastructure Protection Market to Witness Growth Acceleration During 2026-2019


(Global) How IoT Opens the Door for Insider Attacks Against Industrial Infrastructure

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Islamic State: Its Agility To Reinvent Persuasive Narrative – Analysis
Despite losing its territory, ISIS continues to reinvent itself as a guerrilla force that attracts loyal followers.

US signals shift to Africa in counter-ISIS Coalition campaign
Jared Szuba – The Defense Post: 1 August 2019
The United States will be looking for help and cooperation on a global scale in the fight against ISIS, particularly in Africa, according to a U.S. State Department official.
https://thedefensepost.com/2019/08/01/us-coalition-isis-africa/

For more on this theme:

Isis suspects in Syrian camp raise thousands through online crowdfunding campaign
https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-syria-camp-al-hol-paypal-telegram-online-crowdfunding-a9021006.html

Afghan authorities alarmed by ISIS recruiters at Kabul University
https://www.thenational.ae/world/asia/afghan-authorities-alarmed-by-isis-recruiters-at-kabul-university-1.890394

Dutch court convicts Islamic State militant of war crimes

UN Experts: Islamic State Down But Not Out

‘Her Eyes Were Full of Fear.’ Turkey Repatriates Children of ISIS Followers.

ISIS Caliphate Is Gone, But Threat Remains, Dunford Says
https://www.defense.gov/explore/story/Article/1918561/isis-caliphate-is-gone-but-threat-remains-dunford-says/

UN ISIS investigator calls for Nuremberg-style international tribunal

A Conversation with Graeme Wood: What ISIS Really Wants
https://newideal.aynrand.org/a-conversation-with-graeme-wood-what-isis-really-wants/

The al-Hol case: Left-behind ISIS adherents pose a unique challenge
The death of Hamza bin Laden and the weakness of al-Qaida

Daniel L. Byman – Brookings: 1 August 2019

What does the death of Hamza bin Laden, Osama’s favorite son and future leader of al-Qaida, mean for the organization as a whole?


Death, anguish and flickers of hope: 10 years of Boko Haram

Eromo Egbejule – Al Jazeera: 30 July 2019

Ten years ago, the radical Boko Haram sect became a terror organization and embarked on a trail of murder and mayhem that continues today. The Nigerian government has learned little from its mistakes.


For more on this theme:

Army Hands Over 151 Ex-Boko Haram Insurgents To Bosg For Onward Reintegration Into The Society


Al Qaeda was forgotten during the rise of Islamic State, but the terrorist group is more dangerous than ever

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-31/al-qaeda-was-forgotten-but-the-terror-group-is-more-dangerous/11365230

Kenya calls on UN to formally list Al Shabaab as a terrorist group


Facebook open-sources algorithms for detecting child exploitation and terrorism imagery


Are Terrorists “Abnormal?”

https://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/are-terrorists-abnormal

Al-Qaeda’s Ayman al-Zawahiri Invokes Kashmir Again, Calls for ‘One’ Jihad


Nigeria Says Boko Haram Defeated, But New Groups Conduct Attacks


West Africa must confront its foreign terrorist fighters

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/west-africa-must-confront-its-foreign-terrorist-fighters
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

In Overflowing Syrian Refugee Camps, Extremism Takes Root
Lara Seligman – Foreign Policy: 29 July 2019

Those remaining in Syrian refugee camps could very well become the next generation of ISIS. The crowding and squalor, coupled with ISIS brides who remain loyal to the organization, could fuel ISIS 2.0.


In France, a radical approach to fighting radicalization
Colette Davidson – The Christian Science Monitor: 31 July 2019

France has come up with an innovative approach to radicalization — focusing on personal introspection rather than placing blame. This French approach can be an example for other cities and states.

https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2019/0731/In-France-a-radical-approach-to-fighting-radicalization

For more on this theme:

Youth underscores their key role in preventing violent extremism during UN-backed event
https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/youth-underscores-their-key-role-preventing-violent-extremism-during-un-backed

Algorithms can lead us too easily to extremism

UNDP and IOM to study socioeconomic factors for radicalisation in Central Asia

Commission for Countering Extremism publishes further eight academic papers on extremism
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commission-for-countering-extremism-publishes-further-eight-academic-papers-on-extremism

The far right is really good at tricking you into giving it free advertising
https://qz.com/1677549/how-the-far-right-tricks-online-shoppers-into-spreading-its-message/

Online extremists shake the internet economy
COUNTERTEERRORISM STRATEGIES

Indonesia Launches Elite Military Unit With Counter-Terrorist Role
Rina Chadijah – Eurasia Review: 31 July 2019

The Indonesian military has formed an elite counterterrorism commando unit to address increasing threats from extremists, nationally and globally. The Special Operations Command, or Koopsus TNI, was formed in response to a 2018 anti-terrorism law, which stipulates that the military take an active role in counterterrorism.


For more on this theme:

Private Sector Holds Key to Battling Indiscriminate Terrorism

Terrorism and organised crime: risks of shared responses

Almost a year in: Is the president’s National Counterterrorism Strategy working?

Artificial Intelligence for Counterterrorism?