CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)
   Corruption
   Drug Trafficking
   Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)
   Internet Governance
   Internet Freedom
   Cyber Statecraft and Strategy
   Cyber Attacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
   Cyber Capacity Building
   Cybercrime

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
   ISIS and Foreign Fighters
   Al-Qaida
   Terrorism Around the World
   Radicalization
   Conflict and Crime
   Russia/Ukraine
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

How mates and grey corruption rig the political game
Cameron Murray and Paul Frijters – The Conversation: 3 August 2022
If you are a powerful politician, there is a good chance you make decisions that favor your friends.

Living in fear: The corporate staff exposed to corruption by their employers
Ben Knight – Deustche Welle: 2 August 2022
Mining corporations are leaving employees without support in countries where corruption is endemic, activists say. One former executive is now in hiding in the Philippines, fearing for his life.

For more on this theme:
Ukraine appoints prosecutor general, new anti-corruption chief
Malawi President Launches Anti-Corruption Campaign to Fight Graft
Covid corruption rears its ugliest head in Vietnam
‘Londongrad’ losing its allure for corrupt elites, police say
Exiled Journalists Take on Corruption, Disinformation
https://www.voanews.com/a/exiled-journalists-take-on-corruption-disinformation/6675342.html
S. Africa asks UAE to extradite Guptas over corruption charges
Bulgaria’s window of opportunity to break systemic corruption
Anger over inflation, corruption spurs Panama’s biggest protests in decades
Evidence-based index versus perception-based corruption indicators
Why are our politicians so against anti-corruption bodies?
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Why Cocaine Traffickers Love Bananas
Max Daly – VICE: 3 August 2022

The humble banana has become the go-to cover for drug gangs.

Ecuador terrorized by Mexican-led drug trafficking explosion
Agence France-Presse: 29 July 2022

Once a relatively peaceful neighbor of major cocaine producers Colombia and Peru, Ecuador has become a battleground for criminal gangs looking to control the drug trade, analysts and authorities say.

For more on this theme:

Singapore: Rights experts call for moratorium on executions for drugs offences

Venezuelan Spy and Alleged Drug Trafficker Linked to Luxury Flats in Barcelona

Timely information sharing critical to combat illicit drug trafficking – Minister

Balkan cartel trafficking cocaine from South America to the EU dismantled

Increased Drug Trade in Golden Triangle: Security Implications
https://www.idsa.in/issuebrief/increased-drug-trade-in-golden-triangle-asahu-280722

How COVID-19 Reshaped Cocaine and Marijuana Trafficking in Brazil

Narco-terrorism might become a global reality: Report

“Narco-Tanks”: Vehicle of Choice for Patrolling Mexico’s Criminal Landscape

New book chronicles how America’s opioid industry operated like a drug cartel
https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/08/02/1115003825/american-cartel-scott-higham-opioid-epidemic-big-pharma

The post office is the new hub of drug smuggling in Nepal
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Bird smuggler turned gamekeeper: the man shining a light on illegal wildlife trade
Denise Hruby – The Guardian: 1 August 2022

Stanislavas Huzhiavichus spent four months in jail for smuggling birds. Now he lifts the lid on the wildly profitable business.


For more on this theme:

Pangolin Poaching Crisis Fuelled by Online Trade

Indigenous Communities Employing Drones to Monitor Amazon Deforestation

Beyond bored apes: Blockchain polarizes wildlife conservation community

Report: Brazil Officials Ignore Deforestation

The Human Toll of Logging in the Congo Basin
https://www.borgenmagazine.com/logging-in-the-congo-basin/

Illegal Brazil gold tied to Italian refiner and Big Tech customers
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The Sinking Gold Town

What Vietnam can learn from Thailand’s fight against illegal fishing
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Ecuador Combats Chinese Fleet’s Illegal Fishing with Canadian Satellite Technology
lite-technology/

WTO Limits Subsidies for Illegal Fishing

Could Flag States Be Sued for Reckless Behavior?

Zoo Explains Why a Handbag Lives Inside an Enclosure as Tweet Goes Viral

From The Field: Protecting the last Malayan tigers
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

South Korea’s ‘Sender Pays’ Policy is a Threat to the Internet
Adrian Wan – The Diplomat: 3 August 2022
The “sender pays” model is poised to create fragmentation of digital rules and standards, compromising the ecosystems that have been at the heart of the internet’s innovation and growth.

For more on this theme:
(China) Cyberspace Governance in China: Evolution, Features and Future Trends

(Global) It’s still early days for cyber

(EU) Why the EU Wants to Regulate Artificial Intelligence Through a ‘Risk-Based’ Approach

INTERNET FREEDOM

Indonesia’s PayPal, Yahoo bans cast cloud over tech hub dream
Randy Mulyanto and Leo Galuh – AlJazeera: 4 August 2022
Jakarta temporarily bars PayPal, Yahoo and several gaming websites after they fail to join the licensing system.

For more on this theme:
(Cuba) Cuban NFT artists say they face censorship within the crypto market

(Philippines) In the Philippines, free press won’t go down without a fight

(Hong Kong) Hong Kong government plans new law banning computer data deemed harmful to Hong Kong

(China) ‘We show hotshots who’s boss’: how China disciplines its tech barons
https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/jul/24/we-show-hotshots-whos-boss-how-china-disciplines-its-tech-barons
CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

For the EU to bolster foreign and security policy, it must embrace transatlantic digital diplomacy

Julian Ringhof – The Parliament Magazine: 3 August 2022

Digital technologies and cyberspace are at the epicenter of global power struggles. The Sino-Russian “no-limits” partnership and the war in Ukraine make it clear that the EU must bolster its digital diplomacy and do so in close cooperation with the U.S.


For more on this theme:
(U.K.) National AI Strategy — AI Action Plan

(U.S., Global) Cyber Symposium — The Evolving Face of Cyber Conflict and the Jus ad Bellum: A Futurespective
https://lieber.westpoint.edu/cyber-conflict-jus-ad-bellum-futurespective/

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CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Costa Rica Disables Servers due to Cyber-Attack Threat
Ileana Fernandez – The Tico Times: 21 July 2022

Costa Rica’s Ministry of Public Education reported that it received a threat alert for a possible cyberattack on its systems.

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For more on this theme:
(India) Covid vaccine study to Oil India: Targets under cyber attack
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(Australia, Global) Australia must do more to secure the cables that connect the Indo-Pacific

(Spain, Russia) Spanish research center suffers cyberattack linked to Russia
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**CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING**

*Malawi President*

African Governments must invest in indigenous digital solutions — Malawi President

CDA Consult – Modern Ghana: 1 August 2022

The investments needed to create a “digital Africa” must include a younger workforce.


*For more on this theme:*

**(Africa)** Start-ups eye metaverse, NFTs, to solve Africa’s economic woes


**(EU)** Ransomware: 1.5 million people have got their files back without paying the gangs. Here’s how

https://www.zdnet.com/article/ransomware-1-5-million-people-have-got-their-files-back-without-paying-the-gangs-heres-how/

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**CYBERCRIME**

*The National Interest: 2 August 2022*

Could Russian and Chinese Cybercriminals Team Up Against the West?

Delilah Schwartz and Naomi Yusupov – The National Interest: 2 August 2022

To effectively protect global society from cybercrime, it is vital to understand the potential damage that could be inflicted as a result of Russian and Chinese criminal collaboration.


*For more on this theme:*

**(Global)** Nearly half of businesses are being hit by economic crime, with cybercrime the gravest threat. What can they do about it?

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/07/fraud-cybercrime-financial-business/

**(Global)** Cyber-mercenaries for hire represent shifting criminal business model


**(U.K.)** The state of cybercrime in 2022: What it costs and where it comes from

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

ISIS is a Problem of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
Sarhang Hamasaeed – United States Institute of Peace: 28 July 2022
Addressing the ramifications of terrorist group’s legacy still requires collective action, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

For more on this theme:

Leading ISIS Media Figure and Foreign Fighter Sentenced to Life Imprisonment

Islamic State continues to menace Iraqi-Syrian border

The Crisis of Female Jihadists in Al-Hawl Displacement Camp
https://carnegieendowment.org/sada/87510

Islamic State in Khorasan Province Exploits Tajik Martyrs for Online Recruitment in Central Asia

How the US can combat the rising threat of an ISIS reemergence

The ISIS is Back in Syria
https://www.fairobserver.com/world-news/the-isis-is-back-in-syria/

The War Against ISIS, With Michael Gordon
https://www.cfr.org/podcasts/war-against-isis-michael-gordon

UNDP Official in Afghanistan to Asharq Al-Awsat: Taliban, ISIS Locked in Brutal War

Islamic State groups use South Africa to channel funds, UN says

Islamic State’s Expansion in Africa and its Implications for Southeast Asia

Former Islamic State Fighter From Kazakhstan Warns Others Against Jihadi Recruiters
https://www.rferl.org/a/kazakhstan-islamic-state-former-militant-speaks-prison/31961581.html
AL-QAIDA

After al-Zawahiri’s Killing, What’s Next for the U.S. in Afghanistan?
Kate Bateman, Asfandyar Mir and Andrew Watkins – United States Institute of Peace:
2 August 2022

His location in Kabul suggests Taliban sanctuary, undermining the regime’s claims to cutting ties with transnational terrorists.

Zawahiri’s Legacy and the Prospects for an al-Qaeda Revival
Barak Mendelsohn and Colin P. Clarke – Lawfare:
2 August 2022

Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri is dead, but al-Qaeda persists. How dangerous is the group today?

For more on this theme:
Who was Ayman al-Zawahri? Where does his death leave al-Qaida and what does it say about US counterterrorism?

Al-Qaida Succession Plan Being Put to Test

As Al-Qaeda scouts for new chief, Indian agencies worry about an Islamic State spillover

What Leadership Type will Succeed Al-Qaeda’s al-Zawahiri?
https://icct.nl/publication/what-leadership-type-will-succeed-al-quadas-al-zawahiri/
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/08/03/al-qaida-after-al-zawahri/

What Zawahiri’s Killing Means for al-Qaeda

Al Qaeda needs a new leader after Zawahiri’s killing. Its bench is thinner than it once was.

Who will take over Al-Qaeda?

What Zawahiri’s Death Means for al Qaeda
https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/what-zawahiris-death-means-for-al-qaeda
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

What Ayman al-Zawahri’s death says about terrorism in Taliban-run Afghanistan
Vanda Felbab-Brown – Brookings: 2 August 2022

What does the death of the al-Qaida leader tell us about the terrorism and counterterrorism picture in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover?

For more on this theme:

Former Al-Shabab Commander, Al-Qaida Member Named to Somali Cabinet

Palestinian Islamic Jihad Purportedly Establishes New Formation in the West Bank

The Controversy Surrounding Hezbollah’s Weapons
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Pakistan must stop accommodating the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan

Africom Commander on Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Wagner Group, and security in Africa

The Jihadists of the Caribbean
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IntelBrief: Assessing the State of the Global Jihadist Movement
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Tehrik-e Taliban Tajikistan and terrorist threat in Tajikistan and Central Asia

Jihadists in Bangladesh are still going strong. Economic gains aren’t ‘wins’

Analysis: Shabaab’s multi-day incursion into Ethiopia

Hezbollah’s calculations in the maritime dispute with Israel
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/analysis/hezbollahs-calculations-maritime-dispute-israel

Amnesty: Taliban’s ‘Suffocating Crackdown’ Destroying Lives of Afghan Women
RADICALIZATION

**Trends in Violent Far-Right Extremism**
The Soufan Centre: 28 July 2022

This Issue Brief examines four key trends in the violent far-right landscape with a focus on whether sanctions prove a useful tool in countering them.

https://thesoufancenter.org/research/trends-in-violent-far-right-extremism/

For more on this theme:

**Comparing Violent Far-Right Terrorist Designations among Five Eyes Countries**
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**Nigerian Military Says Over 14,000 Boko Haram Fighters Have Surrendered So Far**
https://humanglemedia.com/nigerian-military-says-over-14000-boko-haram-fighters-have-surrendered-so-far/

**EER Webinar: The Nexus Between Terrorism, Famine, and State Fragility**

**Review: Women and Radicalism in Saudi Arabia**
https://eeradicalization.com/review-women-and-radicalism-in-saudi-arabia/

CONFLICT AND CRIME

**Violence persists in Amazon region where Pereira and Phillips were killed**
Sarah Brown – Mongabay: 2 August 2022

Less than two months since the killing of British journalist Dom Phillips and Brazilian Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira in early June, armed illegal gold miners reportedly intimidated government rangers near the remote Amazon region where the pair were slain. Indigenous leaders say this ongoing reign of violence poses a grave danger to those working and living in the Vale do Javari region.

https://news.mongabay.com/2022/08/violence-persists-in-amazon-region-where-pereira-and-phillips-were-killed/

For more on this theme:

**Unequal power relations driven by poverty fuel sexual violence in Lake Chad region**

**Ukrainian court lowers Russian soldier’s war crimes sentence**

**Russia’s record of barbarism and criminality in the five months since they invaded Ukraine: UK statement to UN Security Council**
CONFLICT AND CRIME

For more on this theme:

Warnings over Ukraine-Russia war crime accusations turning into ‘lawfare’

New Colombia government to propose incentives to crime gang members who disarm

Adding Capacity in Conflict Zones

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The ILC Draft Principles on Protection of the Environment in Armed Conflict
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Conflict fuelling sexual violence in northern Ethiopia

Mexico: new research shows the historic link between opening schools and falling murder rates

The Prosecution of Russian War Crimes in Ukraine
https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/08/08/the-prosecution-of-russian-war-crimes-in-ukraine

Violent crime is soaring in South Africa and retribution isn’t working – it’s time for restorative justice

War crimes: Universal jurisdiction secures convictions for genocide against Yazidi people
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RUSSIA/UKRAINE

A Fragile Ukraine Grain Deal Raises Cautions on Talks with Putin
James Rupert – United States Institute of Peace: 4 August 2022

Russia’s missile strike and lax verification weaken the effort to ease global grain shortages.

For more on this theme:
As Ukraine Focuses on Retaking Southern Territories, Moscow Raises Stakes
https://jamestown.org/program/as-ukraine-focuses-on-retaking-southern-territories-moscow-raises-stakes/

Russian army faces morale problems as Putin's Ukraine invasion drags on

Why Shouldn't Ukraine Strike Back?
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Russia and the West are vying for influence in Africa and Ukraine is a big reason why

Nuclear Risks: Russia’s Ukraine War Could End in Disaster
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Moscow Fears ‘De-Russinization’ of Kaliningrad and Steps Up to Block It
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Ukraine war hangs over UN meeting on nukes treaty’s legacy
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Russia is forming an alliance of pariah states in the Middle East. It might put Israel in an awkward situation in Syria.

Ukraine says Russia creating strike force aimed at Zelenskiy’s hometown

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine offers lessons on land, at sea and by air
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia is plundering gold in Sudan to boost Putin's war effort in Ukraine

Latvia Contemplates Conscription in Face of Russian Aggression

Russia's War in Ukraine Reveals More Problems in Space

Hesitantly, Ukraine's Grain Begins to Ship
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With Ground War Bogged Down, Ukraine Should Turn to Sea to Speed Russia's Defeat

Russia's invasion of Ukraine threatens a cultural heritage the two countries share, including Saint Sophia Cathedral

Ukrainian civil society can play a key role in securing victory over Russia
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Don't Let License Plates Start a New War

Russia 'running out of steam' in Ukraine, UK spy chief says

Exiled Russian oligarch says Putin doesn't just want to annex Ukraine anymore, he's trying to 'destroy' it

Battle for Kherson and Russia's Global Downsizing
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Grains of Hope and Risk in the Black Sea

Putin's entire Ukraine invasion hinges on the coming Battle of Kherson

The next war: How Russian hybrid aggression could threaten Moldova
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The View from Ukraine: An interview with Dr. Volodymyr Dubovyk

Arm Ukraine Now: Game Changers in Russo-Ukrainian War
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Turkey, Russia gas ties grow contentious amid Ukraine war

Sweden and Finland are on their way to NATO membership. Here’s what needs to happen next.

Russia’s Military Grows Afraid of the Long War
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Russia pulls some Wagner forces from Africa for Ukraine: Townsend

Kyiv Says Russia Plans Fresh Offensive As Moscow Shells Multiple Targets Across Ukraine

Transdniestria, Moldova, and Russia’s War in Ukraine
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Russian Occupation in Southern Ukraine: The Role of Military-Civil Administrations (Part One)

Russian Occupation in Southern Ukraine: The Role of Military-Civil Administrations (Part Two)
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Putin Has a Problem: Russian Soldiers Are Being Sent to Jail For Refusing to Fight in Ukraine

Ukraine defies Russian invasion and advances European energy integration

Russia Has Radically Redefined The Term ‘Fake News’ During The Ukraine War

Is Moldova Next?
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Green peace: How Europe’s climate policy can survive the war in Ukraine

Vogue diplomacy: First Lady Olena Zelenska is Ukraine’s secret weapon

The Righteous Glorification of Volodymyr Zelenskyy
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Do Russians Care About the War in Ukraine?

Russian economy tottering under sanctions, experts say

Adm. James Stavridis: An Endgame in the Russia-Ukraine War?

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https://cepa.org/ukraine-peace-through-victory/

How Russia's war in Ukraine has changed Estonia's outlook
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Putin’s Real Ukraine Nightmare: The Russian Military Seems Stuck

Analysis: A world changed, maybe permanently, by Ukraine war
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-putin-nato-covid-health-26413a1a01fe052eea2c3b6f15ecdf02
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Analysis: With massive Polish arms deal S.Korea steps closer to Ukraine war

Europe is hurting because Russia has cut down its natural-gas supply — but Russia is even worse off: study

Yale shoots down ‘naive and lazy’ IMF assessment of the Russian economy

Lavrov’s African safari was not routine
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/lavrovs-african-safari-was-not-routine

Belarusian Sources See Lingering Russian Threat to Ukraine’s North, Disagree on Belarus’ Role

Don’t Stop Now — Tech Sanctions Can Wreck Putin’s War Machine
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How do Global South politics of non-alignment and solidarity explain South Africa’s position on Ukraine?

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Why Russia could turn to Iran for drones
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Why Ukraine Will Defeat Russia and How, from Kherson to Crimea, from Zaporizhzhia to the Donbas

Implications From the Russian Invasion of Ukraine on Conflict in the Middle East