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CORRUPTION

Index Scores Latin America’s Ability to Fight Corruption
Lauren Favre – U.S. News & World Report: 26 July 2019
Unlike previous measurements, the newly released Capacity to Combat Corruption Index gauges a country’s ability to combat corruption, instead of examining levels of corruption. The higher the score, the better the country’s chance to fight graft.

Grand corruption and the authoritarian turn
Liz Dávid-Barrett and Mihály Fazekas – London School of Economics and Political Science: 30 July 2019
When incoming governments seek to dismantle democratic institutions, they are looking to gain control over economic resources, according to the authors. That solidifies their power and helps them gain more power in the future.
https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europppblog/2019/07/30/grand-corruption-and-the-authoritarian-turn/

For more on this theme:
Fiji to Teach Schoolchildren to Recognize and Resist Corruption

Corruption and illegal drugs: Reconstructing links, reversing the causes

Myanmar struggles to tackle corruption culture

UN Probes Corruption in its Yemen Agencies

Exclusive: A Pandora’s Box of Corruption in Honduras
https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/exclusive-pandoras-box-corruption-honduras

Why can’t Israel kick public corruption? – Analysis

Vietnam issues new regulations implementing its Anti-Corruption Law, effective 15 August 2019
https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/vietnam-issues-new-regulations-94724/

Is Indonesia’s anti-corruption reform slipping?
https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50631314/is-indonesias-anti-corruption-reform-slipping/

Costa Rica’s “Before-and-After” Corruption Scandal Casts a Long Shadow
https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/costa-ricas-and-after-corruption-scandal-casts-long-shadow
DRUG TRAFFICKING

ASEAN’s drug trade rakes in profits despite strict laws
Skylar Lindsay – ASEAN Today: 1 August 2019

Ineffective law enforcement, wealth inequality and economic depression have caused methamphetamine usage and trafficking to soar over the past five years. The organized crime associated with the illegal trade now threatens sustainable development as organized crime expands its influence in the economies where it operates.


Uruguay: The new global drug trafficking hub
Gabriel Gonzalez Zorrilla – Deutsche Welle: 6 August 2019

Uruguay’s reputation for stability on a continent wracked with political and social unrest has made its law enforcement authorities too complacent to prevent the country from becoming a drug trafficking hub in recent years.


For more on this theme:
Behind the numbers on illicit drug use
https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/behind-the-numbers-on-illicit-drug-use

How Iceland’s Planet Youth Program Curbed Teen Drinking, Drug Use

The Opioid Crisis Is About More Than Corporate Greed

Psychedelic Medicine Is Coming. The Law Isn’t Ready

NZ’s drug issues fuelling problems in Pacific, warns expert

Crime on the dark web: Inside the online world where criminals hide in plain sight

Exclusive NYPD Data Reveals Just How Often Fentanyl Is in Cocaine

Malaysia’s Police Force Has A Drug Problem

Seizures Of Methamphetamine Are Surging In The U.S.

Singapore says drug smuggling worsens, even as hangings rise
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Finance sector can help stop illegal R104bn wildlife trade – Standard Chartered CEO
IOL: 7 August 2019

A banking executive has urged the finance sector to play a part in fighting the illegal wildlife trade. Kweku Bedu-Addo, CEO of Standard Chartered Southern Africa, recognizes the enormous challenge. “We need to disrupt the business model behind the trade,” he said. “Its Achilles heel is the very thing that motivates it — the money. The need to move, store and realize proceeds gives governments and the financial sector the power to identify criminal networks via their financial footprints and help close the net.”


$17bn annual loss: African countries move to halt illegal rosewood trade
Chidimma C. Okeke – Daily Trust: 31 July 2019

Africa is losing an estimated $17 billion in revenue as a result of the illicit rosewood trade, mainly in West Africa. The illegal trafficking is causing African forests to disappear at a rate faster than anywhere else in the world.


For more on this theme:

Illegal Logging And Mining In The Amazon - Fears Became A Reality

Rangers — unsung heroes of wildlife conservation

Ecuador cracks down on illegal mining to transform economy

Ghana running out of sea food due to overfishing
https://www.africanews.com/2019/07/30/overfishing/

Activists in DR Congo work to bring animal traffickers to justice

Traditional Chinese medicine is a scourge on exotic wildlife
https://www.sustainability-times.com/environmental-protection/traditional-medicine-is-a-scourge-on-exotic-wildlife/

Joining hands with Facebook, Instagram, Indonesia aims to crack down on illegal wildlife trade

Wildlife trafficking on the rise via Myanmar in region
SMUGGLING, PIRACY AND COUNTERFEITING

Gulf of Guinea must look east to solve its pirate problem
Peter Fabricius – Institute for Security Studies: 1 August 2019

Tackling piracy off Somalia’s coast has been hugely successful. Why then has West African piracy flourished?

Fuel trafficking sustains illegal mining in Peru’s Madre de Dios
Vanessa Romo – Mongabay: 31 July 2019

The smuggling of fuel to the illegal miners in the Madre de Dios region of Peru keeps their illicit trade going. Such mining continues to contaminate the land and strip the country of valuable resources and revenue.

For more on this theme:

Hezbollah denies using Lebanon’s port for arms smuggling

Tourists face growing risk of injury from counterfeit alcohol spiked with toxic chemicals

Amazon increases efforts to tackle counterfeit goods
https://www.retailnews.asia/amazon-increases-efforts-to-tackle-counterfeit-goods/

Only Bulgaria and Romania Haven't Implemented the System for Tracking Counterfeit Medicines yet
https://www.novinite.com/articles/198997/Only+Bulgaria+and+Romania+Haven%27t+Implemented+the+System+for+Tracking+Counterfeit+Medicines+yet

West Africa piracy threatens regional trade plans: Ghana minister

Arming the Cartels: The Inside Story of a Texas Gun-Smuggling Ring
https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/arming-mexican-cartels-inside-story-of-a-texas-gun-smuggling-ring-866836/

From The Depths Of Counterfeit Smartphones

Artificial tongue that can identify different whiskies could put an end to counterfeiting
MONEY LAUNDERING

**Amlo goes high-tech to tackle laundering**  
*King-Oua Laohong – Bangkok Post: 5 August 2019*

Thailand’s anti-money-laundering regulator is planning to amend the country’s laws to include cryptocurrency. Police Maj. Gen. Preecha Charoenshayanon, secretary-general of the Anti-Money Laundering Office, said he believes that, while currently not an issue, cryptocurrency “will be a tool of new money laundering.”

https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1724523/amlo-goes-high-tech-to-tackle-laundering

*For more on this theme:*

- **Cambodia and Laos casinos targeted for drug-trade money laundering**  

- **Crime gangs using e-gaming to launder money — Barbers**  

- **Money laundering spikes in Japan as global crime moves in**  

- **Money laundering and terrorism financing: Commission to boost security**  

- **Piles of Dirty Money Have Europe's Banks Racing to Keep Up**  
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Demystifying decentralisation
Ian Gauci – Times of Malta: 5 August 2019

Decentralization promised to be the key to a free and open internet, but with powerful firms dominating the scene and governments increasingly shutting down access, that dream has been waylaid. Each new technology holds the promise of increased decentralization, but it might be a fruitless endeavor.

https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/demystifying-decentralisation.726625

For more on this theme:

( Kenya) Internet Governance Forum – multi-stakeholder approach to ICT Policy

( Global) Can Blockchain Be a Driver of Transparency in Governance?

INTERNET FREEDOM

How people in China are trying to evade Beijing’s digital surveillance
Jane Li – Quartz: 6 August 2019

Some Chinese internet users are seeking information to actively counteract digital surveillance. While the users have been wary of the government’s aggressive monitoring for some time, recent actions from Beijing have them even more concerned.


For more on this theme:

( Global) Free speech and privacy on the wane across the world

( Turkey) Internet censorship law extends Turkish government’s reach over journalism, culture

( China, Global) What a sovereign internet could mean for free speech
https://www.theneweconomy.com/technology/what-a-sovereign-internet-could-mean-for-free-speech

( Myanmar) Beware Myanmar’s New Information War
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

‘Golden Age Of SIGINT May Be Over’: New Encryption Foils IC Eavesdropping
Theresa Hitchens – Breaking Defense: 23 July 2019

“The ‘golden age of SIGINT (signals intelligence)’ may be over, particularly within the next five or ten years,” according to a new study funded by the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Center for Advanced Studies on Terrorism. Traditional methods of collecting intelligence will no longer work. “End-to-end encryption of all communications and data, differential privacy, and secure communications for all users are likely to be the new reality,” the study says.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) US Defense Department to Employ Blockchain for Communications and Monitoring

(Japan, Global) Scientists in Japan claim laser-based quantum internet breakthrough
https://www.computing.co.uk/ctg/news/3079783/quantum-internet-breakthrough

(U.S.) FBI wants to monitor Facebook and Instagram for domestic threats in real time

(Global) Black Hat: GDPR privacy law exploited to reveal personal data

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Should Cyber Arms Be Treated Like Bioweapons?
David Fidler – Defense One: 24 July 2019

Bioweapons and cyber arms are closely related under international law and should possibly be treated similarly, indicates a recent report. The author finds one key difference that changes the analysis.


For more on this theme:

(Global) From the iPhone to Huawei: The new geopolitics of technology

(Global) Defending Downwind as the Cyberwar Heats up
https://www.securityweek.com/defending-downwind-cyberwar-heats
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

How the Pentagon can win the fight for 5G
Tim Greeff – The Hill: 6 August 2019

A public/private partnership would go a long way toward winning the race for functional 5G technology, according to an op-ed by Tim Greeff, CEO of the National Security Technology Accelerator, a nonprofit that manages prototyping programs for the U.S. military.

https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/technology/456447-how-the-pentagon-can-win-the-fight-for-5g

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) How the Army is strengthening cyber cities

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

(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/

(U.S.) Are more robust cyber partnerships on the horizon?
https://www.fifthdomain.com/dod/2019/07/12/are-more-robust-cyber-partnerships-on-the-horizon/

CYBER THREATS

Why North Korea is a different kind of cyberthreat
Andrew Eversden – Fifth Domain: 8 August 2019

Typically, state actors limit themselves to spying and sabotage. But the North Koreans have done something other nation-state cyber attackers don’t do — they’ve stolen funds, much of which has reportedly gone to their weapons of mass destruction program.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) How government entities can combat cyber threats

(China, Global) FireEye Identifies Prolific Chinese Cyber Threat Group

(Global) F-Srack-mimikatz – A bundle of tools

(Venezuela) A cyber-espionage group has been stealing files from the Venezuelan military
https://www.zdnet.com/article/a-cyber-espionage-group-has-been-stealing-files-from-the-venezuelan-military/
COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Battling Fraud and Cybercrime with Machine Learning
Rishi Manocha – CIO: 2 August 2019

From the retail and payments processing industries to financial services and insurance, machine- and deep-learning solutions are now essential weapons to fight fraud.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Cognitions of a Cybercriminal

(U.K.) The Cyber Helpline enlists chatbot in battle to help cybercrime victims

NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

The Inevitable Evolution of SIEMs
Zane Pokorny – Recorded Future: 5 August 2019

Recorded Future’s guest is Monzy Merza, the vice president and head of security research at the software firm Splunk.

https://www.recordedfuture.com/podcast-episode-119/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Positive pretexting on the rise

(Global) Hackers Change Their Targets— Are You Now In Their Crosshairs?
http://cybertales.libsyn.com/ackers-change-their-targets-are-you-now-in-their-crosshairs-s01e33

(Global) The CyberWire Daily Podcast - Episode 910
STRATEGY AND POLICY

Australian government, spooks, and industry all on different cyber pages
Stilgherrian – ZDNet: 2 August 2019

Ideas for implementing an Australian cyber strategy differ greatly from public to private sectors and everywhere in between.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Cyber-Realpolitik: US Foreign Policy and a Fragmented International System
https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/cyber-realfpolitik-us-foreign-policy-and-fragmented-international-system

(Global) The Rise of the Global Cyber War Threat

(U.S.) DOD Leaders Highlight Talent, Technology in Cybersecurity Strategy

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

How Gamified Learning Is Changing the Landscape of Cyber Training
Wes Knee – Boss Magazine: August 2019

Gamified Learning is poised to help companies and governments fill the 3.5 million predicted cyber security job openings by 2021. It allows for dynamic learning and standardized training.

https://thebossmagazine.com/gamified-learning-cyber-training/

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) How the Army’s cyber school is changing

(Philippines, New Zealand) Stronger cyber defense tackled in PH, New Zealand-hosted Manila meeting

(U.K.) AI-led cyber security training: the key to mitigating the human error threat
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Pentagon report says ISIS is ‘re-surging in Syria’ following Trump’s troop withdrawal
Ryan Browne – CNN: 8 August 2019

A report released last week by the Department of Defense’s Office of Inspector General says that ISIS continues to pose a significant threat in the Middle East. “Despite losing its territorial ‘caliphate,’ the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) solidified its insurgent capabilities in Iraq and was resurging in Syria” from April through June, the report said.

Philippines On Alert Amid Warnings Of New Islamic State-Linked Group In North
Jeoffrey Maitem and Mark Navales – BenarNews: 8 August 2019

New threats in the north from a group that has aligned itself with ISIS have Philippines authorities on high alert. Previous threats were mostly concentrated in the south.

For more on this theme:

Australia Addresses the Growing Threat of Returning Foreign Fighters

Growing similarity between Central Islamic State and West African affiliate

The Rising Specter Of The Islamic State In India – Analysis

ISIS, Eyeing Europe, Could Launch Attacks This Year, U.N. Warns

The children of IS
https://ahvalnews.com/isis/children

Speculation mounts of a new ISIS leader in the making
https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/speculation-mounts-of-a-new-isis-leader-in-the-making-1.895931

UN chief: Islamic State has as much as $300 million to fight
https://www.apnews.com/615e5a39867e4dadad0c1f9fa4d1250c

Prosecuting returning ISIS fighters is incredibly difficult, as it should be
https://www.cbc.ca/news/opinion/returning-isis-fighters-1.5240624

A ticking time bomb: Meeting the ISIS women of al-Hol
https://thedefensepost.com/2019/08/03/isis-women-al-hol/
WHITE NATIONALIST TERRORISM

We worked to defeat the Islamic State. White nationalist terrorism is an equal threat.

Two former U.S. officials who led the global fight against ISIS are warning Americans about a new threat to the homeland: homegrown white nationalist terrorism. “The terrorist acts may differ from Islamic State attacks in degree, but they are similar in kind: driven by hateful narratives, dehumanization, the rationalization of violence and the glorification of murder, combined with ready access to recruits and weapons of war,” they wrote.


For more on this theme:
The United States Can’t Put Terrorism Behind It
https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/08/05/the-united-states-cant-put-terrorism-behind-it/

The Fight Against White Nationalism Is Different

Parallels between the white nationalist movement and ISIS

White Terrorism Shows Stunning Parallels to Islamic State’s Rise
https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/05/world/americas/terrorism-white-nationalist-supremacy-isis.html

Just how bad is the white nationalist terrorism problem?
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/08/06/just-how-bad-is-white-nationalist-terror-problem/?noredirect=on

There is no law that covers ‘domestic terrorism.’ What would one look like?
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Did Mohammed bin Salman Just Give Jihadis the World’s Greatest Terrorist Recruiting Tool?
Alia Brahimi – Foreign Policy: 7 August 2019

Anger at the presence of U.S. troops on sacred Saudi soil led Osama bin Laden to form al-Qaeda and wage jihad on the West. The crown prince’s decision to welcome them back could light the fuse again.

Boko Haram: Nigeria moves to deradicalize former fighters
Ineke Mules and Mohammad Al-Amin – Deutsche Welle: 8 August 2019

The Nigerian government is serious about the rehabilitation of former Boko Haram insurgents. It developed Operation Safe Corridor and encouraged repentant former fighters to undergo deradicalization.

For more on this theme:
Social media is facilitating Islamic radicalisation in Indonesia

ISIS recruitment is growing in Afghanistan as US and Taliban work for peace
https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/isis-recruitment-is-growing-in-afghanistan-as-us-and-taliban-work-for-peace-1.895798

Beware the rabbit hole of radicalization
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/beware-the-rabbit-hole-of-radicalization/2019/08/06/0d589a96-b7bc-11e9-a091-6a96e67d9cce_story.html

More CVE for White People: The Radicalization Process Revisited
https://www.lawfareblog.com/more-cve-white-people-radicalization-process-revisited

Social Media’s Role in Radicalization

The DOJ Is Finally Bridging the Gap Between Online Radicalization and Domestic Terrorism

Patience and dialogue can counter radicalization

The Internet And Radicalization
https://kdkaradio.radio.com/media/audio-channel/internet-and-radicalization

A local strategy for countering violent extremism
https://thehill.com/opinion/criminal-justice/456364-a-local-strategy-for-countering-violent-extremism
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

International Terrorists Remain Hard at Work
John McLaughlin – Ozy: 7 August 2019

While current thoughts in the U.S. are on domestic terrorism, we must not forget that the threat landscape on the international scene has not fallen by the wayside. Foreign terrorism still poses a significant threat.

https://www.ozy.com/opinion/international-terrorists-remain-hard-at-work/95991

For more on this theme:

UN Security Council continues to report on al Qaeda-Taliban alliance

Al-Qaeda ‘Is as Strong as It Has Ever Been,’ State Department Says
https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/terrorism-study/al-qaeda-is-as-strong-as-it-has-ever-been-state-department-says/

Violence in Afghanistan Worsens as U.S.-Taliban Peace Talks Plod On
IRREGULAR WARFARE

USE OF SOFT POWER

Deconstructing the Dragon: China’s Commercial Expansion in Africa
Aubrey Hruby – Atlantic Council: 15 July 2019

China is using infrastructure, government financing and commercial investment to project its power across Africa.


For more on this theme:

Duterte: Can’t stop China in disputed seas, won’t risk clash
https://www.apnews.com/841e38011f084772be1bb74199f9235e

Anti-extremism software to be used to tackle vaccine disinformation
https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jul/21/software-used-against-online-extremists-to-tackle-anti-vaxxers

Combating disinformation and foreign interference in democracies: Lessons from Europe

It’s not just the Russians anymore as Iranians and others turn up disinformation efforts ahead of 2020 vote

Foreign Aid Should Persuade, Not Coerce
https://chargedaffairs.org/foreign-aid-should-persuade-not-coerce/

The problem with China’s soft power: it doesn’t have any

Russian Soft Power in the Middle East
https://besacenter.org/perspectives-papers/russian-soft-power-middle-east/

US Natural Gas Is The New, Global, Soft-Power Weapon – Analysis

The US and its partners are looking for ways to counter China’s growing influence — Japan is using judo

Ethical infrastructure and the inversion of soft power
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