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CORRUPTION

Tens Of Thousands Of Romanians Protest Corruption, Demand New Government
Camila Domonoske – National Public Radio: 13 August 2018
Romanians protested corruption in Bucharest and major provincial cities, demanding the Social Democrat government’s resignation.

Can fighting corruption help Arab states sell painful economic reforms?
Taylor Luck – The Christian Science Monitor: 13 August 2018
Across the Middle East, governments are tackling graft as their populations rise up and demand action. Frustrated with struggling economies, citizens are calling for officials to fix massive corruption problems and enact economic reforms.

For more on this theme:
High-profile prosecutions alone won’t solve Kenya’s corruption problem
https://qz.com/africa/1360591/is-kenya-serious-about-fighting-corruption/

Health authorities siphoned hundreds of thousands in cash and gifts, CCC probe finds

Corruption? What corruption? FIFA deletes any mention from new code of ethics

Welcome changes to anti-corruption law
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/welcome-changes-to-anti-corruption-law/article24697638.ece

Kenyatta’s War on Corruption: Lasting Legacy or Political Theater?
https://www.voanews.com/a/uhuru-kenyatta-war-corruption-legacy-political-theater/4529780.html

Ouster of Zuma Loyalist Bolsters South Africa’s Corruption Fight

Fed up with corruption, Duterte mulls resigning

Argentina at a Crossroads: Democracy or Corruption
https://www.theepochtimes.com/argentina-at-a-crossroads-democracy-or-corruption_2626058.html

New Iraq committee to investigate government corruption
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Lebanon’s hashish equation: If farmers gain, does Hezbollah lose?
Nicholas Blanford – The Christian Science Monitor: 9 August 2018

To improve its dire economic situation, Lebanon is seriously considering a proposal to legalize cannabis. But if poor farmers in the south reap the benefits of legalized marijuana crops, will Hezbollah lose potential recruits and supporters?


U.S. and Mexico to set up joint team to fight drug cartels
Karen Pierog – Reuters: 15 August 2018

The United States and Mexico have announced plans for renewed cooperation on combating Mexico-based drug trafficking groups. The new effort will include a Chicago-based enforcement group that officials said will focus on cartel leaders in Mexico in an effort to disrupt revenue streams and hold the leaders accountable for the havoc they cause in the U.S.


For more on this theme:

How the Iranian regime allows drug trafficking for foreign currency liquidity

President Trump threatens to sue opioid makers, says crisis is ‘warfare’

‘Unprecedented’ drug use in Raqqa as city recovers from IS rule, say residents

Sri Lanka: Noose Looms Large For Drug Dealers

Inside the Bangladesh Prime Minister’s War on Drugs
https://www.theepochtimes.com/inside-the-bangladesh-prime-ministers-war-on-drugs_2626038.html

Colombia’s renewed war on drugs could get ugly, and solve nothing

Bleak New Estimates in Drug Epidemic: A Record 72,000 Overdose Deaths in 2017

Facebook cracks down on opioid dealers after years of neglect
https://techcrunch.com/2018/08/16/facebook-opioid-searches/

Myanmar’s Meth Menace
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

**AI, IoT take on wildlife conservation**
*IT-Online: 16 August 2018*

Biologists, conservation groups and Microsoft are working together to listen to the rainforest and isolate the rare forest elephant sounds. Using artificial intelligence, the team can find patterns that would take years to identify without the technology. Machine learning is being employed to prevent wildlife poaching and preserve critical habitats.

https://it-online.co.za/2018/08/16/ai-iot-take-on-wildlife-conservation/

‘People need stake in rhino’s survival’
*Sheree Bega – Independent Online: 14 August 2018*

Efforts to save the rhino have largely failed to have a significant impact on poaching. More success might be achieved if the communities around game preserves were included in anti-poaching campaigns.


Full report:
**Ending wildlife trafficking - Local communities as change agents**

*For more on this theme:*

**Endangered animals stolen from Philippine zoo**

**British Soldiers Combat Illegal African Wildlife Trade**

**Online wildlife trade ‘a serious threat in the region’**

**How soccer games can help protect wildlife**

**Joint effort needed to end illegal trade of birds**

**Illinois Becomes 9th State to Ban the Sale of Ivory and Rhinoceros Horns**
https://www.livekindly.co/illinois-ban-ivory-rhinoceros-horns/

**Illegal fishing and Amazon deforestation operations linked with offshore tax havens**

**Logging permit fraud threatens timber species in Brazilian Amazon**

**Drones driven by AI will track illegal fishing in African waters**
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Central American child migrants move in ‘shadows’, at risk from traffickers: U.N.
Anastasia Moloney – Reuters: 16 August 2018

Child immigrants fleeing to the U.S. are at high risk of human trafficking while on their journey, according to UNICEF, the United Nations’ children’s agency. And if deported, they are often targeted when they return to their home countries.


DHS develops software tool to help fight human smuggling
Dave Kovaleski – Homeland Preparedness News: 16 August 2018

When investigating human trafficking, agents are always looking for a technological edge — and they may have found one in a data analytics software program called Igloo. Developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, Igloo helps agents analyze massive amounts of data and then builds a framework for law enforcement to use.


For more on this theme:

These health drinks are also fighting human trafficking
https://www.fastcompany.com/90212399/these-health-drinks-are-also-fighting-human-trafficking

AFRICA: African women convene on human trafficking, sex slavery

This Senate Study On Detained Migrant Children Claims Some Could Be Vulnerable To Trafficking

People smugglers touting for business on Facebook - UK officials
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-socialmedia-crime/people-smugglers-touting-for-business-on-facebook-uk-officials-idUSKBN1KV1Z7

Exclusive: UK refusing asylum to more ex-child slaves despite safety fears

Thailand: Government Cracks Down On Human Trafficking, Child Porn

Global Human Trafficking Now a $32 Billion Industry

Anti-immigrant forces won a victory at the E.U. This is how immigrants will respond.
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

We Need an Internet Bill of Rights
Monica Eaton-Cardone – Entrepreneur: 7 August 2018

With 90 percent of Americans believing that they have no control over how their personal information is gathered and used, it appears the U.S. needs some new solutions — perhaps an internet bill of rights.

https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/318012

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Alex Jones and the Bigger Questions of Internet Governance
https://www.cato.org/blog/alex-jones-bigger-questions-internet-governance

(Global) Can any Government Take Back the Internet at this Stage? Maybe
https://www.cbronline.com/opinion/internet-at-this-stage

INTERNET FREEDOM

Internet censorship in Africa threatens democracy, economy
Jan Philipp Wilhelm – Deutsche Welle: 4 August 2018

African governments are shutting down internet sites and applications as they wish. Many use this option around elections or exams, but others use the power more frequently. Chinese influence over some of these governments is worrisome as they try to emulate the Great Firewall of China.


For more on this theme:

(China) In China, an entire generation is growing up with censored internet

(Israel) Will a new wave of Israeli legislation diminish internet freedoms?

(Zambia) Zambia pushes ahead with controversial cyber security legislation
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

The darknet is not a hellhole, it’s an answer to internet privacy  
*Andreas Zaunseder – The Conversation: 16 August 2018*

It’s time the darknet lost some of its nefarious reputation and is looked upon as a serious alternative to the scandals, lack of privacy and data protection on the internet.  

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) The U.S. Military Just Partially Banned Geolocatable Cellphones. That’s a Start.  

(U.S.) The United States finally starts to talk about data privacy legislation  

(India) Indian firms lagging on compliance of EU data protection rule: EY  

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

When China Rules the Web  
*Adam Segal – Foreign Affairs: September/October 2018*

China is surpassing the U.S. as the leading force shaping the internet. China aims to be a cyber superpower and is steadily making progress toward that goal.  

For more on this theme:

(China) CAC-handed: tensions in Chinese internet control  
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/cac-handed-tensions-chinese-internet-control

(Australia) Enhancing Australia’s cyberspace resilience  

(India) The Ministry of India launches the Cyber Surakshit Bharat Abhiyan to strengthen the Cybersecurity ecosystem in the Nation.  
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

**IDC calls on Malaysian government to forge public-private partnerships**

_Kiran Kaur Sidhu – Digital News Asia: 14 August 2018_

Malaysia’s information-technology spending is expected to reach an estimated $10 billion by the end of 2018, with an estimated 70-75 percent of that still in hardware. The Malaysian government should focus on public/private collaborations as a means for achieving its Vision 2020/25, according to International Data Corp. Asean.


_For more on this theme:

(Saudi Arabia) Fourth Industrial Revolution ‘an incredible accelerator for Saudi Arabia to achieve Vision 2030’


(U.S., Global) FBI warns banks about potential ATM hacking scheme


(U.S.) Cyber security program for service members substantiates success with first graduates


PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**Raytheon CEO: Why Your Own Employees Could Be Your Greatest Threat**

_Thomas A. Kennedy – Fortune: 14 August 2018_

The insider threat is one of the greatest dangers to intellectual property. Nation-states put out detailed catalogues and pricing structures to entice employees to steal and sell sensitive intellectual property.


_For more on this theme:

(Australia) Australia targeted thousands of times in cyber attacks by overseas agencies


(China, U.S.) Did the Obama-Xi Cyber Agreement Work?


(Middle East) Symantec Discovers New Cyber Espionage Campaign Targeting Middle Eastern Government and Business Organizations

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

**Trump gives the military more latitude to use offensive cyber tools against adversaries**

*Ellen Nakashima – The Washington Post: 16 August 2018*

U.S. President Donald Trump has eliminated rules governing the process for launching cyber attacks, giving the military freer rein to deploy its advanced hacking tools without pushback from the State Department and the intelligence community.


*For more on this theme:*

**(India) ‘E-governance: The key for good governance’**


**(Afghanistan) Govt institutions being equipped with Internet**


**(U.K.) Comment: Universities can lead cybersecurity innovation**

https://www.scotsman.com/business/companies/comment-universities-can-lead-cybersecurity-innovation-1-4785163

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

**UAE tightens cyber crime laws**

*Robert Anderson – Gulf Business: 13 August 2018*

United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has enacted harsher punishments for those who manage terror sites and who recruit, promote or fund terror groups on the internet.


*For more on this theme:*

**(Middle East) Cybercrime: Why can’t the Middle East get to grips with the threats?**


**(Global) Money, power and ego, the factors that drive people to cybercrime**


**(Global) How $1B Startup Darktrace Uses AI to Fight Cybercrime**

https://www.ETFtrends.com/robotics-ai-channel/how-1-billion-startup-darktrace-uses-ai-to-fight-cybercrime/
INFORMATION SHARING

Collaboration means more businesses survive cyber attacks
Alexandra Cain – Financial Review: 13 August 2018

Sharing cyber security information lessens the likelihood that criminals will succeed.

For more on this theme:

(Global) How Open Data Could Save Our Oceans

(ASEAN) Singapore calls for Asean cooperation in cyber security
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/asean-plus/30352360

(U.S.) U.S. states demand better access to secrets about election cyber threats

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Most security pros concerned about election infrastructure
Warwick Ashford – Computer Weekly: 13 August 2018

Most information security professionals in the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia — 93 percent of more than 400 polled — believe the election infrastructure is vulnerable to cyber attacks.

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) DHS works to strengthen election security on heels of bipartisan legislation


(U.S.) Tenable Research Reveals Critical Need to Secure Public Utilities against Cyberattack
ISIS

ISIS Is Preparing for Another War With 30,000 Fighters in Iraq and Syria: U.N. Report
David Brennan – Newsweek: 14 August 2018
As many as 30,000 members of the Islamic State terrorist group remain in Iraq and Syria, a United Nations report indicates. The report states that between 20,000 and 30,000 ISIS members, including leadership and other branches, remain intact and distributed roughly equally between Syria and Iraq.
https://www.newsweek.com/isis-preparing-another-war-30000-fighters-iraq-syria-1071292?piano_t=1

The Iraqi Spy Who Infiltrated ISIS
Margaret Coker – The New York Times: 12 August 2018
Iraq’s elite counterterrorism unit, the Falcon Intelligence Cell, placed spies inside the Islamic State’s ranks and used that human intelligence to capture ISIS leaders and thwart hundreds of ISIS plots. Capt. Harith al-Sudani, a member of the elite unit, spent months posing as an ISIS militant.

For more on this theme:
Islamic State ‘Well-Positioned’ to Rebuild Caliphate

Islamic State claims Kabul’s latest deadly attacks
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-45213628

Rape, Forced Marriages, And Child Soldiers -- Life Under Islamic State In Afghanistan

Clashes with Taliban will weaken Islamic State in Afghanistan: US generals

Striking from the desert: Arms expert on how the Islamic State, in retreat, fuels its war effort

What ISIS is up to during your summer vacation
http://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/401282-what-isis-is-up-to-during-your-summer-vacation

Cyber Caliphate Vows to Kill Anonymous Hackers Who Have Been Taking Down ISIS

Can ISIS regroup? Lessons from interviews with ex-ISIS fighters
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Terrorist attacks are quietly declining around the world
Adam Taylor – The Washington Post: 15 August 2018

On a global scale — despite an uptick in European attacks — there has been a significant decline in high-profile attacks and the deaths caused by them in 2017 and in 2018.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2018/08/15/terrorist-attacks-are-quietly-declining-around-world/?utm_term=.db0bfa8bca81

Al-Shabaab’s Mata Hari Network
Katharine Petrich – War on the Rocks: 14 August 2018

A researcher has worked to document a surprising element within al-Shabaab’s operational structure: the use of sex workers and street children in the group’s intelligence apparatus. "If you want information here," said one interviewee, “you use the prostitutes and street kids — they see everything, go everywhere, and nobody notices them.”


For more on this theme:

Al Qaeda returns? UN panel warns of new bin Laden threat

Al-Qaida at 30 Shows Signs of Resurgence After ISIS Routed

Whatever happened to Al Qaeda in Afghanistan?

The Role Al Qaeda Plays in Cyberterrorism
http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/role-al-qaeda-plays-cyberterrorism

Cash economy aiding Boko Haram activities, says UN report

Nigerian soldiers protest as Boko Haram attacks surge

Cameroon’s Far North: A New Chapter in the Fight Against Boko Haram

Egypt finalizing details of long-term Hamas-Israel truce: source

Lebanese Hezbollah leader says group stronger than ever
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

‘Islamic State’ youth fighters keep the faith in prison
Judit Neurink – Deutsche Welle: 16 August 2018

Iraqi youth who fought for ISIS are holding on to the group’s ideology even though they are going through deradicalization in juvenile prison. Some may even become more radicalized by the time they leave.


Germany worried about ‘kindergarten jihadists’
The Arab Weekly: 12 August 2018

Germany is concerned that the next big wave of extremism may come from children who have never left the country and are being radicalized at home.

https://thearabweekly.com/germany-worried-about-kindergarten-jihadists

For more on this theme:

L.A. turns away federal grant to combat extremism amid concerns of unfairly targeting Muslims
http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-In-extremism-grant-20180816-story.html

Research to identify causes of extremism urged

No enabling environment for radicalism
http://jordantimes.com/opinion/daoud-kuttab/no-enabling-environment-radicalism

NIA gets scholars to understand IS radicalization

Youth have to help in the ‘fight back’ against radicalisation: Shanmugam

To stop young women being radicalised we need to find out why they feel so vulnerable

Poll Result: Integration Does Not Reduce Risk of Radicalization

Survey suggests Palestinian radicalization driven by lack of hope

Why deradicalization education is ineffective in Europe
http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1115360.shtml

In heart of West Africa, Burkina Faso faces rising extremism
https://apnews.com/b9535fd2b0f/247388df1b9cddac8ba7d
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Will Russia Bring Home Children Who Lived in Islamic State?
Tanya Lokshina – Foreign Policy in Focus: 14 August 2018

Russia had a program to return Russian women and children from Iraq and Syria. What happened to it?

For more on this theme:
Victims or prisoners? Camp life for ISIS wives and children
http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/110820183

Foreign fighters involved in assault on Ghazni, Afghan defense minister says

South-east Asian IS fighters: Where (in Syria) are they now?
https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/indepth/2018/8/14/south-east-asian-is-fighters-where-are-they-now

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

What’s in the Malaysia-Saudi Arabia Counterterrorism Center Shutdown?
Prashanth Parameswaran – The Diplomat: 10 August 2018

Malaysia’s defense minister announced that the country would close a Saudi-backed counterterrorism center that had just been opened last year.

For more on this theme:
Multi-dimensional approach needed to counter terrorism

Indonesia: Fight against Terror has Consequences and Failings
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

DEALING WITH DISASTERS

U.S. Disaster Relief at Home and Abroad
Rocio Cara Labrador – Council on Foreign Relations: 15 August 2018
The U.S. government responds to scores of disasters each year, coordinating closely with state, local and foreign partners. However, more frequent and severe storms, fires and floods are straining resources.
https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-disaster-relief-home-and-abroad

Developing Capacities on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia-Pacific
United Nations Institute for Training and Research: 10 August 2018
At a workshop for public and private sectors, nongovernmental organizations and academic institutions from 19 countries, participants discussed the concepts and current trends on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

For more on this theme:
Multi-sector collaboration needed to strengthen ASEAN disaster management: Shanmugam

Disaster-Risk Management in Laos

First of its kind emergency ‘Prep Hub’ to be designed, built and installed in Portland

Tonga’s TBC strengthened by new digital transmitter

After disaster alert failures, U.S. moves toward national system

We’re dangerously unprepared for the heat crisis from climate change

Community-based disaster risk management in Vietnam