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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Latin America was making progress fighting corruption. Now impunity is roaring back.
Brendan O’Boyle and Brian Winter – The Washington Post: 9 August 2019

The past five years have seen Latin America rise up, push out corrupt governments and take a stand against graft. But it seems the anti-corruption movement is losing steam. With several setbacks across the region, will Latin America go back to a time when impunity was the norm?
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/08/09/latin-america-was-making-progress-fighting-corruption-now-impunity-is-roaring-back/?noredirect=on

Guatemala’s Anti-Corruption Commission is Ending, But the Fight Will Go On
Bryan Wilensky – Atlantic Council: 15 August 2019

With the government’s decision to end the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, will the country maintain its gains in the fight against graft or slip back into its old ways? The author argues that the citizenry has been significantly changed and will continue to fight corruption, even without the commission.
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/guatemala-s-anti-corruption-commission-is-ending-but-the-fight-will-go-on

For more on this theme:

Rampant corruption scares global investors from Kenya

Yemen: Corruption and Blackouts Push Angry People To Protest
https://intpolicydigest.org/2019/08/05/yemen-corruption-and-blackouts-push-angry-people-to-protest/

Can We Stop Flow Of Honduran Migrants Without Addressing Corruption And Violence? One Reporter Says ‘No’
https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2019/08/06/sonia-nazario-immigration-asylum-seekers

Russian official suspended for failing to report corrupt approach

Upheavals in Israel’s Anti-Corruption Body Raise Red Flags

Iran judiciary chief defends internal corruption probe

How young educated Ghanaians view corruption
DRUG TRAFFICKING

The latest in drug trafficking fashion: cocaine implants
Adriaan Alsema – Colombia Reports: 6 August 2019

A new method of drug trafficking has recently been uncovered — using plastic surgery to implant liquid cocaine between the flesh and the muscle.

Chile Militarizes Drug War, Ignoring Dangerous Regional Precedent
Gabi Gorder – InSight Crime: 14 August 2019

Failing to learn from the failures of other regional nations, Chile has decided to deploy its military in the fight against drugs.

For more on this theme:

Drug traffickers are recruiting smugglers on Facebook
https://qz.com/1680134/facebook-ads-are-being-used-to-recruit-drug-smugglers/

“You Can’t Recover If You’re Dead”

Luxembourg to be first European country to legalise cannabis

The Afghanistan-India Drug Trail – Analysis

Will Drug Conspiracy Allegations End US Support for Honduras President?
https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/will-drug-conspiracy-allegations-end-us-support-for-honduras-president/

Venezuela Hides its Cocaine Behind Marijuana Seizures

Colombia’s Drug Strategy Paradox – Less Coca Crops, More Cocaine

With record meth busts and thriving transnational crime, has South-East Asia’s ‘war on drugs’ failed?
https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-04/war-on-drugs-southeast-asia-has-it-failed/11349012

Eradication vs. Legal Coca: Colombia and Bolivia’s Disparate Drug Policies

Legit, Safe Places to Inject Heroin Are Closer Than Ever

How do you stop people dying from illegal drug taking?
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

As Gold Surges, So Does Illegal Mining Tied to Crime and Illness
Laura Millan Lombrana, David Biller and Felix Njini – Bloomberg: 13 August 2019

Illegal gold mining is burgeoning as the price of bullion rises. Nations are losing out on tax revenue, but that’s not the only issue — it’s the poisoning of the waterways, deforestation, increased sex trafficking, killing of indigenous peoples and fueling of other criminal activities that come with it.

Animal tourism generates five times more revenue than illegal wildlife trade
Megha Paul – Travel Daily: 12 August 2019

Wildlife tourism contributes five times more to the global gross domestic product than the illegal wildlife trade, according to a new study by the World Travel & Tourism Council. The study found that viewing and experiencing animals in their natural habitat comprised 4.4% of all direct tourism GDP in 2018. Wildlife tourism also directly created over 9 million jobs and indirectly supported 21.8 million jobs.

For more on this theme:

CITES conference to strengthen wildlife trade rules for fisheries, timber, exotic pets, elephants and more

Deadly game: Wildlife trade puts species at risk

Campaigners push for reform of outdated CITES wildlife trade system

Calling all hackers — endangered wildlife needs you

How Buddhist monks are protecting a vulnerable forest from illegal logging in Cambodia
https://www.lionsroar.com/buddhist-monks-cambodia-forest/

Illegal logging causes water shortage in Balangoda

Big Sharks Keep Disappearing From Shorelines, and That’s a Problem
https://www.inverse.com/article/58412-shark-study-overfishing-exploitation
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Why Venezuelan Migrants Are Joining Colombia’s Criminal Gangs
Deborah Bonello – OZY: 14 August 2019

Increasingly, Colombian drug and criminal gangs are recruiting downtrodden migrants from Venezuela into their fold. Some 4 million have fled Venezuela since President Nicolás Maduro took power in 2013, and intelligence suggests at least 300 of those migrants are working for Colombian crime gangs, though the number is likely much larger.


For more on this theme:

Crime and Corruption in Honduras Fuels Migration

Human Trafficking: Mexico rescues 45,000 migrants

Concerted efforts stressed to combat human trafficking

Thailand Still Hub of Global Sex Trafficking Rings: UN

Stopping human trafficking in Lao
https://theaseanpost.com/article/stopping-human-trafficking-lao

Ethiopians Abused on Gulf Migration Route

Scientists develop scanner that can detect migrants in trucks moving at 100 mph
https://www.mirror.co.uk/tech/scientists-develop-scanner-can-detect-18938143

Why Mexico’s Development Plan Will Not Reduce Migration from Central America
https://theglobepost.com/2019/08/15/mexico-development-plan/

Rwanda offers migrants stuck in Libya, Niger a safe haven

Exclusive – Despite Tighter Security, Migrant Smuggling Thrives between Sudan, Egypt
SMUGGLING, PIRACY AND COUNTERFEITING

Mexico Considers Banning Cash for Gasoline Purchases, Highway Tolls
Michael O’Boyle and Nacha Cattan – Bloomberg: 9 August 2019

Mexico is mired in money laundering, fuel smuggling and tax evasion. The government is considering banning the use of cash for gasoline purchases and tolls as a way to curtail those nefarious activities.


For more on this theme:

Why Companies Should Seek Higher Damages for Counterfeiting
https://knowledge.insead.edu/marketing/why-companies-should-seek-higher-damages-for-counterfeiting-12131

These Countries Pose The Biggest IP Protection Threats, according to the U.S.

Counterfeit products in India are causing losses to tune of over Rs 1 lakh crore every year

Amazon Officially Responds to Counterfeit CD Allegations, Says ‘Counterfeit Is an Age-Old Problem’
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Is Nationalism Threatening the Future of the Internet?
Wolfgang Kleinwächter – BRINK: 11 August 2019

As digital nationalism grows, it is likely to cause further fragmentation of the internet. The world could see a return of the information borders that existed before the global information revolution.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Decentralized Network Wants to Return the Internet to Users

(China, Africa) The Cybersecurity 202: How Huawei helped extend China’s repressive view of Internet freedom to African nations

INTERNET FREEDOM

Russia demands Google take action over protest videos
Deutsche Welle: 11 August 2019

Russia’s media oversight agency, Roskomnadzor, wants Google to stop the spread of videos of “illegal” demonstrations in the country.

https://www.dw.com/en/russia-demands-google-take-action-over-protest-videos/a-49988411

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) When Limiting Online Speech to Curb Violence, We Should Be Careful
https://www.wired.com/story/when-limiting-online-speech-to-curb-violence-we-should-be-careful/

(China) China detains critic of online censorship
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-detains-critic-of-online-censorship/article29103109.ece

(Kashmir) The ‘Special Status’ of Kashmir’s Internet Must Go
https://thewire.in/tech/the-special-status-of-kashmirs-internet-must-go
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

**Why Stricter Data Privacy Laws Would Benefit The Data Industry**
Gladys Kong – Forbes: 14 August 2019

It is likely in the wake of the General Data Protection Regulation that more countries will enact stricter data collection rules. The regulation hasn’t significantly changed the way most companies do business, but the stricter rules now appearing on the horizon just might.


For more on this theme:

**(Global) Cooperative Cybersecurity protection for large-scale infrastructure**

**(U.S.) Section 230 Was Supposed to Make the Internet a Better Place. It Failed**

**(U.S.) FBI seeks to monitor Facebook, oversee mass social media data collection**

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

**Incoming: Cyber Threats Need Less Hand-to-Hand Combat, More Collective Defense**
Susan Lawrence – Signal Magazine: 1 August 2019

As the cyber threats from nation-states grow, the U.S. Defense Department needs to continue to build resilience into the system. It should focus more on collective defenses than reactive responses.

https://www.afcea.org/content/incoming-cyber-threats-need-less-hand-hand-combat-more-collective-defense

For more on this theme:

**(U.S.) The Cybersecurity 202: Hackers just found serious vulnerabilities in a U.S. military fighter jet**

**(U.S.) History Doesn’t Repeat Itself in Cyberspace**

**(Global) Serious flaws in six printer brands discovered, fixed**

**(North Korea, Global) UN probing 35 North Korean cyberattacks in 17 countries**
https://www.apnews.com/ece1c6b122224bd9ac5e4c0d80c1d80
CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Task Force Takes On Russian Election Interference

In an interview with NPR, Paul Nakasone, the head of the U.S. National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command, talks about how the online battle waged against ISIS is informing the fight against Russia ahead of the 2020 elections.
https://www.npr.org/2019/08/14/751048230/new-nsa-task-force-takes-on-russian-election-interference

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Congress mobilizes on cyber threats to electric grid
(U.S.) #DEFCON: How the US’s CISA Works to Improve Election Security

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Accenture Report Reveals New Cybercrime Operating Model Among High-Profile Threat Groups
Business Wire: 14 August 2019

A new operating model among cyber crime groups has emerged in the past year, boosting the efficiency of attack campaigns, a report warns. Closer relationships between these groups has resulted in a greater degree of sharing, making it difficult to identify which group is behind a cyber attack, according to the 2019 Cyber Threatscape Report from professional services firm Accenture.

For more on this theme:
(Russia) Russia’s new cyber laws will fuel online crime, claims report
https://www.computing.co.uk/ctg/news/3080270/russia-cyber-crime
(India) Goa: Lack of evidence forces cyber crime cell to close 60% cases
(U.S., Global) How to Defeat the Latest State and Local Government Cybercrime Trends
CITIZEN AWARENESS

Education key to avoid becoming victim of cyber crime — Rep
Borneo Post: 9 August 2019

The Malaysian government is reaching out to make people aware of cyber crime and how to protect themselves.


For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Stanford University and Avast team up to examine cyber risks of connected homes

(Canada) Canada Launches Small Business Cybersecurity Certification Program

(U.S.) CISA, NCSA Release 2019 National Cybersecurity Awareness Month Toolkit

HUMAN RESOURCES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

What government can do to keep its cyber workforce
Andrew Eversden – Fifth Domain: 14 August 2019

The U.S. government should do a better job of selling the experiences it can offer when recruiting cyber security professionals. The private sector may pay better, but the government offers unique opportunities and a chance to serve the country.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) NSA program trains high school students in work study program
https://www.scmagazine.com/home/government/nsa-program-trains-high-school-students-in-work-study-program/

(New Zealand) Forum aims to reach and teach Kiwi youth about cybersecurity
https://www cio.co.nz/article/665211/forum-aims-reach-teach-kiwi-youth-about-cybersecurity/

(U.S.) Why the United States needs more cybersecurity experts — badly

(U.S.) Students learn about cybersecurity at Harford Community College’s GenCyber Camps
NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

The CyberWire Daily Podcast – Episode 915
CyberWire: 15 August 2019
The visiting guest is Taylor Armerding from Synopsys, who talks about the projected employment shortfall in cyber security.

For more on this theme:

(Global) Swamping search results for reputation management

(Global) The CyberWire Daily Podcast – Episode 913

(Global) Pioneering Threat Intelligence Before It Had a Name
https://www.recordedfuture.com/podcast-episode-120/
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Captured ISIS fighters get short sentences and art therapy in Syria

ISIS fighters in northwestern Syria are being given short prison sentences and therapeutic art classes in an effort to rehabilitate them. The Kurds hope the unique rehab program will prevent a resurgence of the terrorist group in Iraq and Syria.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/08/14/captured-isis-fighters-get-short-sentences-art-therapy-syria/?noredirect=on

Remain, Expand, Attract: The Paradigmatic Experience of the Islamic State in Libya
Dario Cristiani – The Jamestown Foundation: 9 August 2019

ISIS has clearly shown its ability to grow, adapt, recruit and remain relevant in Libya over the past few years. While the group in Libya is not a fully functioning ISIS arm, it is still seen as a platform to expand into other parts of Africa.


For more on this theme:

Chechnya sends ex-ISIS women into schools, not jails
https://www.rudaw.net/english/world/09082019

U.S. Military Calls ISIS in Afghanistan a Threat to the West. Intelligence Officials Disagree.

A look at one way ISIS is trying to incite attacks inside the US

ISIS preparing women to participate on the front line of future endeavors
https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/ISIS-preparing-women-to-participate-on-the-front-line-of-future-endeavors-597731

For ISIS Children, Returning Home to Europe Meets Resistance

Kazakhstan Welcomes Women Back From the Islamic State, Warily

The Islamic State is building Caliphate 2.0 in a Syrian camp
WHITE NATIONALIST TERRORISM

**What Makes Young, White Men Succumb To Extremist Ideologies?**
*Kim Johnson and Dallas Williams – Texas Public Radio: 12 August 2019*

How can we prevent young men from being pulled into the violent world of white extremism? Why are men more susceptible to this toxic ideology and more likely to commit violent acts as a result? What are the warning signs, and is there a road to redemption? Tony McAleer, a former skinhead recruiter, and Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University in San Bernardino, are interviewed.


**How One City In Sweden Fought Back Against White Supremacy**
*Julie Lindahl – WBUR: 13 August 2019*

Together, the citizens of Ludvika disempowered the neo-Nazis and changed the perception of their city to a place united behind democracy and human rights. A reporter discovers her grandparents’ role in the Third Reich and the reverberations of their fateful engagement in the SS through the generations.


For more on this theme:

**Inside the Government, Addressing Domestic Terrorism Has Been Fraught**

**The Gathering Threat of Domestic Terrorism**
https://lobelog.com/the-growing-threat-of-domestic-terrorism/

**Killer narratives: The real culprit of mass shootings in the US**

**A Norwegian white nationalist tried to kill Muslims at a mosque**

**The insidious role of female white nationalists**

**Domestic Terrorism Is Likely to Grow, Experts Warn**
https://fortune.com/2019/08/14/domestic-terrorism-mass-shootings/

**White nationalist domestic terrorism is rising — rethinking how we label it can help the FBI stop it**
https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/white-nationalist-domestic-terrorism-rising-rethink-how-we-label-it-ncna1040876
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

How Islamic State Infiltrated Kabul University
Ezzatullah Mehrdad – The Diplomat: 12 August 2019

ISIS is now recruiting at Kabul University and other Afghan universities in an attempt to entice professors and students to join their organization.


For more on this theme:

How do terrorists become radicalized?
https://wwl.radio.com/media/audio-channel/how-do-terrorists-become-radicalized

Woke social network is an anti-radicalisation scheme
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/woke-social-network-is-an-anti-radicalisation-scheme-bn8qgw79l

Tackling extremism needs a multi-faceted approach, say experts

A risky return for ex-combatants into communities
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/a-risky-return-for-ex-combatants-into-communities

View on Africa: dealing with terrorist defections

What You Need to Know about 8chan and How It Became a Breeding Ground for Violence

Neuroscience is the missing link that can separate terrorists from non-violent extremists
https://theprint.in/opinion/neuroscience-is-the-missing-link-that-can-separate-terrorists-from-non-violent-extremists/276105/

Meet the women who fight extremism in Afghan universities
TERRORISM AND THE INTERNET

Facebook and YouTube Are Failing to Detect Terrorist Content in Arabic
Moustafa Ayad – Vice: 9 August 2019

A team of researchers examined whether Facebook and YouTube are detecting even simple Arabic searches for terrorist materials. Bottom line, they are failing.


How Big Tech Can Fight White Supremacist Terrorism
Daniel Byman and Christopher Meserole – Foreign Affairs: 15 August 2019

Big tech can employ the same tools it has been using to track Islamist extremism to track and eliminate white nationalist extremism.

https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2019-08-15/how-big-tech-can-fight-white-supremacist-terrorism

For more on this theme:

https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/islamic-state-english-language-online-magazine-rumiyah-rome-research-guide-narrative

Bosnia Failing in Fight against Extremism Online

How Does Online Racism Spawn Mass Shooters?
https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/08/04/online-racism-4chan-8chan-shootings-elpaso-dayton-texas-ohio/

Is the internet making it easier for people to become radicalized?
https://wwl.radio.com/media/audio-channel/how-do-terrorists-become-radicalized

Coalition Pressuring Twitter to Shut Down White Supremacist Accounts
https://www.charlestonchronicle.net/2019/08/13/coalition-pressuring-twitter-to-shut-down-white-supremacist-accounts/

Facebook, Twitter Pressed to Help Prevent Domestic Terrorism

We Wanted to Know How Online Radicalization Was Changing the World. We Started With Brazil.

Garissa youths to counter Shabaab propaganda on social media
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