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 Strategy and Risks
  Cyberattacks
  Cybercrime
  Critical Infrastructure Protection

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

CORRUPTION

Guatemala’s anti-corruption candidate wins presidency in a landslide vote
Eyder Peralta – NPR: 21 August 2023
Bernardo Arévalo has beaten the odds in becoming president-elect. The 64-year-old former diplomat is the son of Guatemala’s first democratically elected president.

Anti-Corruption Campaign in China’s Medical Sector: Unmasking the Hidden Agenda
Yanzhong Huang – Council on Foreign Relations: 18 August 2023
While the government’s new initiative has the potential to significantly advance healthcare reform, it may also have unforeseen and potentially dire consequences.

For more on this theme:

Pakistan dispatch: corruption verdict against ex-PM Imran Khan may end his political career

Former Austrian leader Kurz charged with giving false evidence to a corruption inquiry

Panama Corruption Trial Targets Martinelli Inner Circle
https://ticotimes.net/2023/08/22/panama-corruption-trial-targets-martinelli-inner-circle

ASEAN Parties Against Corruption meet comes to close

Ex-OPEC President Facing Corruption Charges In UK

Russia Sues Billionaire Andrey Melnichenko Over Allegedly ‘Corrupt’ Energy Deal

Slovakia’s crime agency charges senior officers with corruption

New Sanctions on Lebanon’s Former Central Bank Governor Likely Bring Frozen Assets to At Least $200 Million, Documents Show
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Ecuador’s Tangled Web of Drug Trafficking and Security Vulnerabilities
Carlo J. V. Caro – The National Interest: 20 August 2023

The assassination of presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio signals the profound and intricate relationships between politics, economy and drug trafficking in North and South America.


How Mexican narco use remittances to wire U.S. drug profits home
Diego Ore – Reuters: 18 August 2023

Drug cartels are using money transfers favored by migrant workers to send illicit earnings back to Mexico. They’re hiring armies of people on both sides of the border to move small sums that are difficult to trace, authorities say.


For more on this theme:

Escaped Taiwanese drug lord ran trafficking ops from Cambodia prison

Europe: Cocaine’s Ever-Expanding Market

Drug use is rising in Jordan, warns Interior Minister

‘Poor Man’s Cocaine’ Costing $3 a Pill Threatens to Proliferate

Golden Triangle, Myanmar & Manipur — The tale of a dirty drug syndicate

From Terrorist Organizations to Cocaine Groups in Colombia: Is ELN the Next?
https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/terrorist-organizations-cocaine-groups-colombia-eln-next

‘Narco Bananas,’ New Drug Trafficking Method

Syrian drug trafficking a threat to the region
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2356761

Ecuador: From Darwin To Drug Trafficking
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Brazil’s Criminal Groups Hamper Fight Against Illegal Mining in the Amazon

Nelza Oliveira – Diálogo: 23 August 2023

Brazil’s largest criminal groups have been working with illegal miners, which is contributing to increased violence in Brazil’s Yanomami reservation.


Illegal logging turns Syria’s forests into ‘barren land’

Delil Souleiman – Phys.org: 20 August 2023

On a riverbank in the war-ravaged country’s north, logging has reduced what was once a lush forest to dispersed trees and decimated trunks. Twelve years of conflict that led to a spike in the illegal activity have eroded Syria’s greenery.


For more on this theme:

Lion farming in South Africa: fresh evidence adds weight to fears of link with illegal bone trade


Creating forest inventories with drones and artificial intelligence


Driving out the rainforest invaders: crackdown on illegal mining brings hope after Bolsonaro era


Illegal Industrial Fishing Reduces Food Supply in Guinea-Bissau


Transnational Crime and Geopolitical Contestation along the Mekong


How a daring team stops illegal trade of endangered wildlife in Indonesia


Congolese Officials Sanctioned for Participating in Wildlife Trafficking


Expert says urgent enforcement is needed in Indonesia to prevent trade in endangered whale sharks

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

ICANN warns UN may sideline tech community from future internet governance
Simon Sharwood – The Register: 22 August 2023
The United Nations’ proposed Global Digital Compact will exclude technical experts as a distinct voice, according to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers and two of the world’s regional internet registries.
https://www.theregister.com/2023/08/22/icann_un_digital_compact_warning/

For more on this theme:
(Caribbean) CTU & Partners advance Caribbean internet governance priorities in the region

(India) India’s AI Opportunity

INTERNET FREEDOM

Somalia bans TikTok, Telegram and 1XBet over ‘horrific’ content, misinformation
Reuters: 21 August 2023
Somalia has banned the apps and online services to limit the spread of indecent content and propaganda, its communications minister said.
https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/refile-somalia-bans-tiktok-telegram-1xbet-over-horrific-content-misinformation-2023-08-21/

For more on this theme:
(India) How Internet Shutdowns Wreak Havoc in India
https://time.com/6304719/india-internet-shutdowns-manipur/

(Senegal) Shift in Media Freedoms a Concern for Senegalese Journalists

(Zimbabwe) Zimbabwe ‘slows down’ internet as voting begins

(China, Russia) Don’t let China and Russia export digital censorship

(France) Mozilla aims to stop France from censoring the internet
CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

An Overview of Dubai’s First and Second Cybersecurity Strategy
Diarnaka Aniagolu – Dark Reading: 17 August 2023

The city has rolled out two plans to protect the data of the government and citizens in the United Arab Emirates.

For more on this theme:
(Ghana) Cyber-Security: A Tool To Drive Economic Development In Ghana
(Malaysia) New Malaysian cyber security Bill and PDPA review in the pipeline
line
(Japan) Japan’s digital revolution

CYBERATTACKS

San Francisco’s real estate market has been crippled by a cyberattack on the main property listings database, and there’s ‘no clear timeline’ on a fix
Rachyl Jones – Fortune: 18 August 2023
Hackers have left home buyers and sellers scrambling for workarounds.

For more on this theme:
(UK, Australia) Cyberattack on Energy One affects corporate systems in Australia and the UK
https://www.csoonline.com/article/649923/cyberattack-on-energy-one-affects-corporate-systems-in-austr-
alia-and-the-uk.html
(Belgium) Cyberattack on Belgian social service centers forces them to close
https://therecord.media/charleroi-belgium-cpas-cyberattack
(UK) Up to 300 UK retailers crippled by cyberattack on IT company Swan Retail
https://techmonitor.ai/technology/cybersecurity/swan-retail-cyberattack
(Hong Kong) Previously unknown hacking group targets Hong Kong organizations in supply chain cyberattack
CYBERCRIME

Malicious AI arrives on the dark web
Mercedes Page – The Strategist: 22 August 2023

The development of artificial intelligence (AI) has progressed at an unprecedented pace over the past few months. While society deliberates how best to regulate AI, nefarious actors already are harnessing it.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Emerging Market of Cybercrime Tools Driven by Generative AI Offers Automated Assistance With Fraud, Malware Creation

(Global) Quantifying cybercrime: Why we must measure impact to fight it effectively

(Global) Navigating the AI frontier: cybercrime’s evolution and defense strategies

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Securing critical infrastructure with the carrot and stick
Jonathan Reed – Security Intelligence: 23 August 2023

In a short time, cybersecurity has taken an important place in the national discourse. Governments, regulatory agencies and companies must work together to confront the growing threat.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Hacking Attempts on Critical Infrastructure Up 70% Worldwide
https://irishtechnews.ie/hacking-attacks-critical-infrastructure-up/

(Israel) Why are Israel’s critical sectors vulnerable to cyberattacks? — Analysis
https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-754093

(U.S.) Opinion: Cyberattacks Could Put Our Food Supply at Risk. Preparedness is Key
https://modernfarmer.com/2023/08/cyberattacks/

(U.S., Cuba) Cuba ransomware group exploits Veeam to hit critical infrastructure
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

US Sees IS Effectiveness Decreasing, but Analysts Warn Resurgence Still Possible
Dale Gavlak – Voice of America: 23 August 2023

While the Islamic State group continues to lose influence in Iraq, U.S. Maj. Gen. Matthew W. McFarlane recently warned that remnants still pose a threat to areas not under the protection of the U.S.-led coalition, including parts of Syria.


Perspective: The Future Fighters of ISIS Are Adolescents Being Smuggled Out of Al-Hol by Their Mothers and Financial Networks
Mona Thakkar and Anne Speckhard – Homeland Security Today: 21 August 2023

Removals of adolescent boys from the Syrian refugee camp by authorities have triggered heightened concerns among female detainees, particularly those fervently devoted to the terror group’s cause.


For more on this theme:
Yazidi genocide survivors still haunted by ISIS onslaught nine years later

Islamic State-Linked Rebels Suspected in New DR Congo Massacre

US Gen Kurilla visits ISIS-linked families in Syrian camps

Collective Reparations for Victims of ISIS
https://www.justsecurity.org/87521/collective-reparations-for-victims-of-isis/

ISIS Jihadists Told to ‘Prioritize Self-Care’ and Mental Health While Using ‘Toxic’ Social Media, Learn Cybersecurity Tips

A New Filipino Leader for Southeast Asia’s Islamic State

Recent Islamic State Attack in Syria Suggests Bid for Continued Relevance
Once their favourite targets, Al Shabaab now turn to women to dodge crackdown
Abdulkadir Khalif – The East African: 18 August 2023

On August 8, Somalia’s military court, which usually tries high-level criminal suspects, witnessed a spectacle: four women, all married, were paraded as terrorism suspects.


Nigeria’s Borno State to capture biometrics of nearly 7k ex-Boko Haram fighters
Ayang Macdonald – Biometric Update: 23 August 2023

The commissioner for information and internal security in Nigeria’s northeastern state of Borno said that a biometric identification process has begun for 6,900 militants of the jihadist terrorist group Boko Haram who have dropped their weapons.


For more on this theme:
Mercenary Leader Prigozhin Reported Dead in Plane Crash by Russian State News

With Prigozhin gone, what next for the Wagner Group?
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/prigozhin-gone-what-next-wagner-group

Al-Qaeda Calls for Terror Attacks in Sweden and Denmark

Over 100 Terrorists Reportedly Killed As Boko Haram, ISWAP Clash In Lake Chad Area

Somali Government Announces Amnesty for Al-Shabab

The impact of al-Qaeda's missing public leadership

The Growing Sahel Crisis
https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/sahel-crisis-niger-coup-mali-burkino-faso-by-carlbildt-2023-08

Keeping Jihadists Out of Northern Côte d’Ivoire
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Ukraine — Victory Is Closer Than You Think
Jan Kallberg – CEPA: 23 August 2023

The counteroffensive is making substantial progress. Russia’s generals will know this, even if the West doesn’t.

https://cepa.org/article/ukraine-victory-is-closer-than-you-think/

For more on this theme:

Prigozhin is dead, but Putin is still weakened
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/prigozhin-dead-putin-still-weakened

Experts react: What the Prigozhin plane crash reveals about Putin, the Wagner Group’s future, and the war in Ukraine

Russian general close to Wagner Group removed from post

Pro-Wagner accounts keep showing up on Facebook and Instagram after Meta’s ban on the mercenary group, report shows

Ukrainian Naval Drone Warfare: Some International Political Implications
https://jamestown.org/program/ukrainian-naval-drone-warfare-some-international-political-implications/

Russian women fear return of murderers freed to fight for Wagner
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/19/russian-women-wagner-convicts-war-ukraine

Generation Z: Russia’s Militarization of Children

Don’t Blame the West for Ukraine’s Struggling Counteroffensive
https://cepa.org/article/dont-blame-the-west-for-ukraines-struggling-counteroffensive/

Abandoning Hope on Russia Sanctions? Don’t
https://cepa.org/article/abandoning-hope-on-russia-sanctions-dont/

Russia’s Africa Policy — Starve the People andSwipe Their Wealth

Why We Should Back Ukraine’s Diplomatic Long Game
https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/08/why-we-should-back-ukraines-diplomatic-long-game

Ukraine’s diplomatic offensive gathers pace
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia's Putin attends BRICS summit in South Africa remotely while facing war crimes warrant

Russia and Ukraine trade drone attacks as Kyiv claims it took out a key missile defense system in Crimea

Russia fines Google for failing to delete ‘false content' about Ukraine war
https://www.politico.eu/article/russia-fine-google-ukraine-war/

Ukraine's fight against Russian imperialism is Europe's longest independence struggle
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraines-fight-against-russian-imperialism-is-europes-longest-independence-struggle/

Putin's Russia is trapped in genocidal denial over Ukrainian independence

What Prigozhin's plane crash tells us about Putin's Russia
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/content-series/fastthinking/what-prigozhins-plane-crash-tells-us-about-putins-russia/

Belarus dictator Lukashenka must face justice for role in Russia’s Ukraine war

Putin uses BRICS summit to justify Russia's war in Ukraine
https://www.reuters.com/world/putin-uses-brics-summit-justify-russias-war-ukraine-2023-08-23/

Ukraine Strikes ‘Demonstrably Degrading’ Russian Morale on Front Line: ISW

Europe/Africa Air Force Chief Cites Lessons From War in Ukraine

Ukraine war: The men who don't want to fight

How Russia's War On Ukraine Is Affecting Kyrgyz-Russian Relations
https://www.rferl.org/a/majlis-podcast-pannier-kyrgyz-russian-relations/32555962.html

Brazil looks to gain from Russia's war in Ukraine
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Ukraine Timelapse Map Shows Ground Lost, Retaken in 18 Months of War

South Korea Is Prosecuting Its Citizens Who Went to Fight in Ukraine. Here’s Why

Telegraph: China arms Russia’s war in Ukraine
https://news.yahoo.com/telegraph-china-arms-russias-war-042154404.html

Opinion | Here Are 3 Ways to End the War in Ukraine. One Might Actually Work.

Ukraine War Peace Talks In Saudi Arabia: Unfolding The Potential Implications

Ukraine’s state authorities must follow private sector in unlearning old habits

North Korea: Russia’s Staunch Ally

Russian Commander Calls To Freeze Ukraine War Frontline: ‘Can We Win? No’

Russia’s Tech Giants — A Wartime Choice of Bad or Worse
https://cepa.org/article/russias-tech-giants-a-wartime-choice-of-bad-or-worse/

How Ukraine’s savvy official social media rallied the world and raised the bar for national propaganda

Ukrainian hackers claim to leak emails of Russian parliament deputy chief

Put in Looks Past War and Mutiny to Fifth Term

Putin fails again as Europe’s gas storage hits 90 percent

A New Tool Shows What War Has Done to Ukraine’s Forests
https://www.bellingcat.com/resources/2023/08/18/a-new-tool-shows-what-war-has-done-to-ukraines-forests/

Why Is Vladimir Putin Stalling?