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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Russia: lack of progress on criminalisation of corruption and transparency of party funding
Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) – Council of Europe: 3 September 2019

The Council of Europe’s anti-corruption body published an assessment of the measures taken by Russian authorities to implement recommendations on incriminations and the transparency of party funding. The recommendations were made seven years ago, and very little progress has been made.


Zimbabwe Shows Africa Can Tackle Corruption
Krishna Nag – Geopolitical Monitor: 3 September 2019

Under Zimbabwe’s new president, the government has shown a desire and willingness to tackle corruption at all levels. International cooperation has been critical to the anti-graft successes, and those elements of success can serve as a model for other countries, especially those in Africa.

https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/zimbabwe-shows-africa-can-tackle-corruption/

For more on this theme:

Iraq hands over senior military officers to court on corruption charges
https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/7cde8a70-3aaa-4c98-b314-9ff7294226d

Danmark needs stronger anti-corruption policies for government and the police force

Brazil ‘Car Wash’ corruption probe facing ‘worst moment’ as establishment fights back

The Murder Of Daphne Caruana Galizia And The Issue Of Corruption in Malta

New Saudi anti-corruption chief to target public servants

Iran Prosecutor Says Military, Intelligence Personnel Deeply Involved In Banking Corruption

Fighting Corruption or Just More Political Infighting in Iran?
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/iransource/fighting-corruption-or-just-more-political-infighting-in-iran

Prosecuting Foreign Officials Won’t Stop Businesses Offering Bribes
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Peru to start uprooting coca plants in top drug-trafficking region
Marco Aquino – Reuters: 12 September 2019

Security forces will start eradicating illegal coca plants in a region previously deemed too dangerous for operations, the Peruvian government says. The largely lawless jungle area is a hot spot for remaining Shining Path rebels.


The Pacific, Australia and New Zealand’s meth highway
Dominic Godfrey – RNZ: 12 September 2019

The rise of methamphetamine in the region has caught police off guard in most areas. Local criminal groups are becoming transnational and are improving methods for the transfer and movement of meth.


For more on this theme:

DEA to allow more entities to grow cannabis for federally approved research

The Global Drug Trade: America’s Other War
https://www.voanews.com/episode/global-drug-trade-america-s-other-war-4015831

Trump’s border crackdown has forced drug smugglers off-shore as they stuff ocean freighters with cocaine

News: Organized crime, poor policy fueling Africa’s looming drugs crisis

Colombia Has Become A Hot Spot For Medical Marijuana Industry
https://www.npr.org/2019/09/02/756679292/colombia-has-become-a-hot-spot-for-medical-marijuana-industry

Mexico's new drug war may be worse than old one
https://www.apnews.com/9231894fd9bf451e92a6ba64e3c68dc2

Nation's failed weed war turned many into prisoners and others into moguls

Why Mexican Drug Farmers Won't Forgo Getting High … on Revenue

UK advised to recruit former drug dealers if marijuana is legalized
https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/sep/05/uk-advised-to-recruit-former-drug-dealers-if-marijuana-is-legalised
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

How satellites can solve Africa's eco-challenges, from deforestation to illegal mining
Anne Marie Engtoft Larsen and Nicholas Davis – The World Economic Forum:
1 September 2019
Countries across Africa could benefit from the power of satellite data to help fight numerous challenges – from illegal logging to illegal mining.

Bug smuggling is big business
Jani Actman – National Geographic: 5 September 2019
Though often overlooked, the poaching of beetles, spiders, scorpions and other insects and arthropods deserves attentions. Not only is it illegal to bring them into the U.S. without permission, many of the most sought-after species are protected as endangered.

For more on this theme:

Wildlife Trade Conference Imposes Near-Total Ban on Sending Wild African Elephants to Zoos

Shark trade to be restricted
https://theaseanpost.com/article/shark-trade-be-restricted

UK ‘is failing to protect wildlife habitats’, new EU report shows

How to clamp down on illegal mining

The Other Man-Made Disaster Ravaging the Amazon
https://www.thenation.com/article/peru-la-pampa-illegal-gold-mining/

New satellites to help Canada better detect illegal fishing

Ecuadorean and Colombian Service Members Counter Endangered Species Trafficking

Mammoth ivory may be bad for elephants — but should it be banned?
https://www.popsci.com/should-mammoths-be-protected-alongside-elephants/

8 Takeaways From The Most Important Wildlife Event You've Never Heard Of
MONEY LAUNDERING

Anti-money laundering: Are we where we want to be?
Brookings: 11 September 2019

Brookings brought together a group of experts to discuss America’s anti-money laundering system and whether it needs to be changed. The keynote speaker and subsequent panel discussion are available for viewing.
https://www.brookings.edu/events/anti-money-laundering-are-we-where-we-want-to-be/

Trade-based money laundering threat assessed
Douglas Clark – Homeland Preparedness News: 6 September 2019

A United States senator argues that trade-based money laundering is not getting enough attention as a national security threat.

For more on this theme:

New FinCEN unit to focus on money laundering threats

Malaysia Is Revising Rules Against Money Laundering

Could Artificial Intelligence Spell Check-Mate for Money Laundering?
https://thefintechtimes.com/ai-money-laundering/

Australia plans more action against big banks on money laundering

Privacy fears slow spread of UK-style data-sharing to combat money laundering
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

In a world of cyber threats, the push for cyber peace is growing
Scott Shackelford – The Conversation: 3 September 2019

A growing group of governments and nongovernmental organizations is trying to figure out what limits can and should apply to cyber attacks, the responses to those attacks, and the online behavior causing so much cyber insecurity worldwide.


For more on this theme:

(Global) They Call it Multistakeholderism. Where Does That Leave the UN?

(Global) Keeping a Free and Open Internet Starts at the Root
http://www.circleid.com/posts/20190909_keeping_a_free_and_open_internet_starts_at_the_root1/

(Global) Multistakeholderism: a critical look

INTERNET FREEDOM

Dictators and the Internet: A love story
Jason Rezaian – The Washington Post: 10 September 2019

A report by the Committee to Protect Journalists found that internet-oppressive regimes routinely quash freedom of speech. Joel Simon, the watchdog’s executive director, said: “The internet was supposed to make censorship obsolete, but that hasn’t happened. Many of the world’s most censored countries are highly wired, with active online communities.”


Full report:

10 Most Censored Countries

For more on this theme:

(Global) The Internet Crackdown Bug Is Spreading
https://www.ozy.com/fast-forward/the-internet-crackdown-bug-is-spreading/96572

(Cuba) In new Cuban internet measures, journalists see a trap

(Hong Kong) Private Internet Access No Longer Blocked in Hong Kong
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

The Internet: Privacy Enabler or Detractor?
David Moschella – InformationWeek: 11 September 2019
The internet has created more individual privacy than any technology in human history. So why are we constantly told otherwise?

For more on this theme:
(China) App attempts a rare trick in China: online privacy
https://ca.reuters.com/article/technologyNews/idCAKCN1VR0MG-OCATC

(Global) Unhackable internet system for smart cities?

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

National borders don’t stop in the physical world – they’re in cyberspace too
Meicen Sun – Big Think: 8 September 2019
Virtual borders are now just as prevalent as physical or political borders. Some states are erecting virtual borders that limit the flow of information over the internet. Visitors traveling from one state to another may never be aware of the censorship.
https://bigthink.com/politics-current-affairs/virtual-borders?rebelltitem=1#rebelltitem1

For more on this theme:
(Global) AI Will Change War, But Not in the Way You Think

(Indonesia) Indonesia needs a digital affairs ministry. Here’s why

(Europe) Digital Connectivity: How to Strengthen Europe’s Digital Agenda

(Global) Growing push for cyber peace
https://telanganatoday.com/growing-push-for-cyber-peace
CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS, AND VULNERABILITIES

North Korean hackers target U.S. entities amid stalled denuclearization talks
Shannon Vavra – Cyberscoop: 11 September 2019

A North Korean hacking group is turning to more obscure file formats (like Kodak FlashPix) in the hope that these will not be detected by anti-virus scans. While the motives are unclear, the group started its activities shortly after the U.S. and North Korea were unable to reach a denuclearization deal.

https://www.cyberscoop.com/north-korea-hackers-kimsuky-microsoft-word-prevailion/

For more on this theme:

(israel) Israel accused of planting mysterious spy devices near the White House

(global) COBALT DICKENS Goes Back to School…Again
https://www.secureworks.com/blog/cobalt-dickens-goes-back-to-school-again

(middle east) ESET discovered an undocumented backdoor used by the infamous Stealth Falcon group

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

New 2019 Cybercrime Report Tracks Growing Threat of Networked Cybercrime
LexisNexis Risk Solutions – CISION: 10 September 2019

LexisNexis Risk Solutions released a comprehensive report on the shifting global fraud landscape for the first six months of 2019. The research highlights a shift toward networked, cross-organizational and cross-industry fraud and gives insight into the evolution of bot attacks targeting new accounts in media and e-commerce.


Full report:
LexisNexis Risk Solutions Cybercrime Report, January-June 2019

For more on this theme:

(global) Disrupting Cybercriminal Strategy With AI and Automation

(u.s., nigeria) FBI and Nigeria step-up cyber-crime investigations

(global) The Big Business Of Cybercrime: The Dark Web
INFORMATION SHARING

NSA Cyber Chief Wants to Share Digital Threats Early and Often
Jack Corrigan – Nextgov: 5 September 2019

The U.S. National Security Agency historically has been slow to share threat intelligence. But accelerating that sharing could help the government get ahead of cyber adversaries.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) NY to require greater public notification of data breaches
https://www.apnews.com/ec2083f287194ab5909e1728add409e3

(Global) Why Companies Are Forming Cybersecurity Alliances

(U.S.) HSCC Shares Resource on Cybersecurity Information Sharing Organizations

NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

The Intersection of Political Science, Risk Management, and Cybersecurity
Zane Pokorny – Recorded Future: 9 September 2019

In this episode, Matt Devost, CEO and co-founder of OODA LLC, shares his insights on managing cyber risk in a complex world, as well as his thoughts on threat intelligence.

https://www.recordedfuture.com/podcast-episode-124/

For more on this theme:

(Global) The CyberWire Daily Podcast – Episode 926

(Global) The CyberWire Daily Podcast – Episode 924

(Global) An ethical hacker can be a teacher.
STRATEGY AND POLICY

Deterrence in Cyberspace Requires Multifaceted Approach

A senior United States Defense Department official told Congress that the U.S. must be able to show it can deter cyber attacks through the use of offensive and retaliatory attacks.


For more on this theme:

(China) China ‘must clean up its cyber act’ for Huawei to be used in 5G network

(U.S., Global) Moving the Encryption Policy Conversation Forward
https://carnegieendowment.org/files/EWG__Encryption_Policy.pdf

(Brazil) UPDATE: Brazil’s Data Protection Law Moves Forward
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

America's top ally in Syria warns ISIS is resurging and asks for more US support
Ryan Browne – CNN: 7 September 2019
The commander of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, the top U.S. ally in the fight against ISIS, said the terrorist group was resurging in Syria and asked Washington for increased support to keep ISIS from reestablishing itself.

ISIS is using new social media sites after Facebook and Twitter crackdown
Nicky Harley – The National: 9 September 2019
ISIS has been focusing its efforts on alternative platforms for its recruitment and propaganda since the mainstream social media sites have cracked down on the terrorist organization. But the limited reach of those other platforms means ISIS will continue to try to use mainstream sites.
https://www.thenational.ae/world/isis-is-using-new-social-media-sites-after-facebook-and-twitter-crackdown-1.908339

For more on this theme:
Kosovo Faces Challenge in Reintegrating Families of ISIS Fighters

Indonesian ISIS Orphans Face Uncertain Path to Reintegration
https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/indonesian-isis-orphans-face-uncertain-path-reintegration

Inside the Minds of the Women Who Joined ISIS

Horrid Conditions in Syria Camp Where ISIS Families Fled Risk Fostering Extremism

This smuggler claims he'll move ISIS members throughout Europe. The price: $8,000

US-led coalition hits ISIS ‘infested’ island in Iraq with 80,000 pounds of munitions

Open Letter from National Security Professionals to Western Governments: Unless We Act Now, the Islamic State Will Rise Again

ISIS Claims Responsibility for Market Blast in Philippines
https://www.ntd.com/isis-claims-responsibility-for-market-blast-in-philippines_377846.html
WHITE NATIONALIST TERRORISM

Can white nationalism be reversed? How experts are trying to deradicalise America’s youth
Chris Riotta – Independent: 1 September 2019

Who better to deradicalize white nationalists than former white nationalists, right? Well, that is the thinking behind what researchers are now exploring as they attempt to discover what leads young people to become radicalized by white supremacist ideology.


For more on this theme:

How White Supremacy has used hate speech as the kindling for domestic terrorism

White supremacy fuels the U.S. domestic terrorism epidemic
https://dailytitan.com/2019/08/domestic-terrorism-white-supremacy/

White supremacy in America: Can parents stop online radicalization?

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Why understanding the role of women is vital in the fight against terrorism
Jamille Bigio and Rachel Vogelstein – The Washington Post: 10 September 2019

Eighteen years after the devastating terrorist attacks of 9/11, violent extremism persists unabated. U.S. national security leaders have consistently neglected one vital factor: the participation of women.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/09/10/why-understanding-role-women-is-vital-fight-against-terrorism/?noredirect=on

For more on this theme:

EU to introduce new anti-terrorism database

Dialogue does not mean defeat: rethinking Africa’s stance on counter-terrorism

In the Deepfake Era, Counterterrorism Is Harder

New executive order targets terrorists, funders of terrorism
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al-Qaeda Today, 18 Years After 9/11
Bruce Riedel – Brookings: 10 September 2019

Counterterrorism expert Bruce Riedel argues that al-Qaida is “a shell of its previous self.” He warns: “The global jihadi threat has been transformed over the last two decades, but vigilance remains essential.”


Six things we've learned about terrorism since 9/11
Khusrav Gaibulloev and Todd Sandler – The Washington Post: 11 September

Since 9/11, there has been a lot of research dedicated to the study of terrorism. So, what have we learned?


For more on this theme:

Hezbollah Readies for Next War Against Israel

Counterproductive Counterinsurgency: Is Mozambique Creating the Next Boko Haram?
https://www.lawfareblog.com/counterproductive-counterinsurgency-mozambique-creating-next-boko-haram

AQAP and Islamic State resume fighting in Yemen

18 Years After 9/11, Jihadism Remains a Global and Local Threat

Al-Qaeda's Continuing Challenge to the United States

Global Terrorism: Threats to the Homeland

Hezbollah, Israel opt for de-escalation

A Virtual 9/11: How Terror's Transformation Complicates Our Long War
https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/terrorism-study/a-virtual-9-11-how-terrors-transformation-complicates-our-long-war/

On 9/11, al Qaeda leader calls for attacks on U.S. and slams jihad “backtrackers”
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Islamic State Operations Room: Lebanon Prison Radicalization
Andrew Devereux – The Jamestown Foundation: 10 September 2019

Prison overcrowding in Lebanon is making it difficult to keep inmates from associating with radicalized prisoners being held on terrorism charges, the same problem confronting many European prisons. Prisons are now a breeding ground of extremism.
https://jamestown.org/program/islamic-state-operations-room-lebanon-prison-radicalization/

How to tackle extremism among the young and radicalized
CORDIS – Phys.org: 11 September 2019

Researchers brought together a group of young people from opposing environments to observe how they respond to extreme Islamic messages.

For more on this theme:
EU steps up support to prevent violent extremism, radicalization in Central Asia

Montreal to restore funding for anti-radicalization centre’s 2020-2019 action plan

Sri Lanka’s Radical Approach to Deradicalization Worked Before. It Can Again
https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/28175/sri-lanka-s-radical-approach-to-deradicalization-worked-before-it-can-again

Countering the message

Countering terrorism and violent extremism
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