

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Ukraine's Two-Front War

Chels Michta – CEPA: 9 September 2023

Much of the attention on Ukraine is rightly focused on the frontlines of its defensive war against the Russian invasion. But Kyiv is also fighting the internal enemy of corruption.

<https://cepa.org/article/ukraines-two-front-war/>

For more on this theme:

Chinese insurance boss sentenced to life in jail for corruption

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/13/business/china-life-wang-bin-sentence-intl-hnk/index.html>

Kolomoyskiy Arrest Seen As A 'Key Test' Of Zelenskiy's Anti-Corruption Campaign

<https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-anticorruption-campaign-kolomoyskiy-arrest-west-aid-zelenskiy/32583892.html>

Guatemala Ex-President Pleads Guilty in Graft Case Amid Shifting Corruption Climate

<https://insightcrime.org/news/guatemala-ex-president-pleads-guilty-corruption/>

Brazil: Supreme Court discards evidence in corruption probe

<https://www.dw.com/en/brazil-supreme-court-discards-evidence-in-corruption-probe/a-66745267>

Countering corruption in India and China

<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2023/08/26/countering-corruption-in-india-and-china/>

Zelenskiy says he will propose tougher corruption measures this week

<https://au.sports.yahoo.com/zelenskiy-says-propose-tougher-corruption-184100550.html>

Ukraine's path to EU membership: Tackling corruption, an independent judiciary and reining in the oligarchs

<https://english.elpais.com/international/2023-08-29/ukraines-path-to-eu-membership-tackling-corruption-an-independent-judiciary-and-reining-in-the-oligarchs.html>

Could South Australia's 'toothless' anti-corruption tiger get back some of its teeth?

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-26/sa-tootless-icac-explainer/102773288>

How Corruption, Complicity Fuel Human Trafficking in Ciudad Juárez

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/corruption-complicity-human-trafficking-ciudad-juarez/>

China Defence Ministry: We will crack down on every corrupt official

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-defence-ministry-we-will-crack-down-every-corrupt-official-2023-08-31/>

In Romania, corruption and incompetence is costing lives

<https://www.dw.com/en/in-romania-corruption-and-incompetence-is-costing-lives/a-66696751>

Better data on corruption can reduce its impact, support sustainable development

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/08/1140282>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Meth trafficking surges in and around Afghanistan

United Nations News: 11 September 2023

Methamphetamine trafficking in Afghanistan and neighboring countries is surging, according to a report from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/09/1140597>

The Opportunities and Pitfalls of Colombia's Ambitious New Drug Policy

Lara Loaiza – InSight Crime: 12 September 2023

The Colombian government's new drug policy aims to radically shift the country's approach to fighting drugs, but a steep increase in coca cultivation raises serious doubts about whether this policy can truly be implemented.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/opportunities-pitfalls-colombia-ambitious-drug-policy/>

For more on this theme:

Drug kingpin El Chapo's wife Emma Coronel set to be released, say US authorities

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/drug-kingpin-el-chapos-wife-emma-coronel-set-be-released-say-us-authorities-2023-09-12/>

Colombian President proposes Latin American alliance to transform 'war on drugs'

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/colombian-president-proposes-latin-american-alliance-transform-war-drugs-2023-09-09/>

'We hit it hard': Alberta First Nation's war on drug trafficking reducing overdoses

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/we-hit-it-hard-alberta-first-nations-war-on-drug-trafficking-reducing-overdoses>

Secretary of State Blinken: No quick solution to fentanyl crisis, but US is leading the fight

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2023/08/31/fentanyl-epidemic-end-focus-drug-trafficking-mexico-border/70707169007/>

Counterfeit drug trade in West Africa surpasses combined oil and cocaine trafficking (report)

<https://www.ecofinagency.com/public-management/0609-44826-counterfeit-drug-trade-in-west-africa-surpasses-combined-oil-and-cocaine-trafficking-report>

Denmark To Double Drug Penalties In Capital's 'Pusher Street'

<https://www.barrons.com/news/denmark-to-double-drug-penalties-in-capital-s-pusher-street-95a1efa7>

The Made-in-Syria Drug That Has Arab World on Edge

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2023/09/04/how-captagon-drug-could-help-rehabilitate-syria-s-assad/0eb70012-4b15-11ee-bfca-04e0ac43f9e4_story.html

State should pull drug trade from 'monster' gangs by decriminalising, say youth workers

<https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/social-affairs/2023/09/03/state-should-pull-drug-trade-from-monster-gangs-by-decriminalising-say-youth-workers/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Chinese markets deplete Lake Victoria's Nile perch

Willis Okumu – Institute for Security Studies: August 2023

Breeding and juvenile Nile perch are being illegally harvested for organs used in Chinese cuisine and traditional medicine.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/chinese-markets-deplete-lake-victorias-nile-perch>

Venezuelan Journalist Covering Illegal Mining in Amazonas Arrested

Lieth Carrillo – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 12 September 2023

Venezuelan nongovernmental organizations focusing on press freedom have denounced the arrest of journalist, political activist and LGBTIQ+ advocate Luis Alejandro Acosta, who has written about the military operation against illegal mining in Amazonas state.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/18028-venezuelan-journalist-covering-illegal-mining-in-amazonas-arrested>

For more on this theme:

Anti-smuggling Police Gather in Shanghai to Strengthen Collaboration in Combating Wildlife Trafficking

<https://www.traffic.org/news/anti-smuggling-police-gather-in-shanghai-to-strengthen-collaboration-in-combating-wildlife-trafficking/>

80% decline in Pakistan's population of critically endangered pangolin due to poaching — experts

<https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2365156/pakistan>

Lula celebrates big drop in deforestation

<https://www.gzeromedia.com/lula-celebrates-big-drop-in-deforestation>

Reporter Covering Illegal Mining in Amazon Lives Under Threat

<https://www.voanews.com/a/reporter-covering-illegal-mining-in-amazon-lives-under-threat-7251204.html>

Nigeria shuts illegal Chinese mining firm over Titanium ore mining

<https://www.wionews.com/videos/nigeria-shuts-illegal-chinese-mining-firm-over-titanium-ore-mining-630843>

'It's dangerous work': new generation of Indigenous activists battle to save the Amazon

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/03/its-dangerous-work-new-generation-of-indigenous-activists-battle-to-save-the-amazon>

Vietnamese lawmakers rally for stricter measures against wildlife crime in TV panel special

<https://www.traffic.org/news/vietnamese-lawmakers-rally-for-stricter-measures-against-wildlife-crime-in-tv-panel-special/>

Study: Wild meat trade from Africa into Belgium a health and conservation risk

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/09/study-wild-meat-trade-from-africa-into-belgium-a-health-and-conservation-risk/>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The Heated Debate Over Who Should Control Access to AI

Will Henshall – Time: 25 August 2023

To prevent disaster, many artificial intelligence (AI) companies and researchers are arguing for restrictions on who can access the most powerful AI models and who can develop them in the first place.

<https://time.com/6308604/meta-ai-access-open-source/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) The Benefits of Internet Governance: Navigating the Digital Frontier

<https://techbullion.com/the-benefits-of-internet-governance-navigating-the-digital-frontier/>

(China) A peep into China's new AI regulations

<https://indiaai.gov.in/article/a-peep-into-china-s-new-ai-regulations>

(Caribbean) Caribbean Internet Governance Forum examines governance of Artificial Intelligence

<https://antiguaobserver.com/caribbean-internet-governance-forum-examines-governance-of-artificial-intelligence/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Google has a new tool to outsmart authoritarian internet censorship

Tate Ryan-Mosley – MIT Technology Review: 13 September 2023

Its Outline virtual private network can now be built directly into apps, making it harder for governments to block internet access, particularly during protests.

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2023/09/13/1079381/google-jigsaw-outline-vpn-internet-censorship/>

For more on this theme:

(China) China's version of ChatGPT has finally been made public. But will censorship limit its power?

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-06/china-artificial-intelligence-chatbot-chatgpt-erie-baidu/102803758>

(Russia) RuTube: Is Russia moving to ban Youtube?

<https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/h1mpypsan>

(Bangladesh) Bangladesh moves to replace controversial internet law but criticism persists

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/bengali/bangladesh-replaces-dsa-criticism-09132023155829.html>

CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

Australia to be more 'present' in global tech discussions

Ry Crozier – IT News: 29 August 2023

Australia's ambassador for cyber affairs and critical technology says the country and the region need to be more involved in shaping the "global technology future."

<https://www.itnews.com.au/news/australia-to-be-more-present-in-global-tech-discussions-599716>

For more on this theme:

(China, Global) Meta Takes Down 'Largest Ever' Chinese Influence Operation

<https://time.com/6310040/chinese-influence-operation-meta/>

(Costa Rica) Snapshot: Costa Rica's 2027 digital transformation strategy

<https://www.bnamericas.com/en/news/snapshot-costa-ricas-2027-digital-transformation-strategy>

(U.S.) Inside New York's new cyber strategy

<https://statescoop.com/radio/new-york-new-cyber-strategy-colin-ahern/>

CYBERATTACKS

Half of Switzerland's large companies have been the victim of a cyber attack

Agence France-Presse: 4 September 2023

While 45% of large Swiss companies have suffered a cyberattack, only 18% of small businesses say the same, according to a study.

<https://www.euronews.com/2023/09/04/half-of-switzerlands-large-companies-have-been-the-victim-of-a-cyber-attack>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., China) Chinese Smishing Triad Gang Hits US Users in Extensive Cybercrime Attack

<https://www.hackread.com/chinese-smishing-triad-us-users-cybercrime-attack/>

(U.S.) Financial Firms Breached in MOVEit Cyberattacks Now Face Lawsuits

<https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/financial-firms-breached-in-moveit-cyberattacks-now-face-lawsuits>

(Germany) Germany's Banking Regulator BaFin Hit by Cyberattack

<https://www.pymnts.com/news/security-and-risk/2023/germany-banking-regulator-bafin-cyberattack/>

(UK) Russia-linked attackers hit UK Ministry of Defence, leak stolen data

<https://www.csoonline.com/article/650994/russia-linked-attackers-hit-uk-ministry-of-defence-leak-security-data.html>

CYBERCRIME

Dark Web syndicates exploit AI and anonymity for cybercrime surge

IANS: ET Telecom: 4 September 2023

Cybercrime incidents have reached a new high in India, with emerging technologies like artificial intelligence being extensively misused for criminal purposes.

<https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/internet/dark-web-syndicates-exploit-ai-and-anonymity-for-cybercrime-surge/103336479>

For more on this theme:

(Germany) Cybercrime to cost Germany 206 billion euros in 2023, survey finds

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/cybercrime-cost-germany-206-billion-euros-2023-survey-2023-09-01/>

(U.S.) Officials unveil ‘unprecedented’ cybercrime takedown

<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/08/29/fbi-doj-cybercrime-takedown-00113371>

(U.S.) A Whole of Nation Approach to Cybercrime: Secure by Design, Secure by Default

<https://www.aha.org/advancing-health-podcast/2023-08-30-whole-nation-approach-cybercrime-secure-design-secure-default>

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Cybersecurity Builds Trust in Critical Infrastructure

Leo Simonovich and Daniel Dobrykowski – Dark Reading: 6 September 2023

Improving an energy company’s resistance to cyberattack does more than protect vital resources – it enhances trust from customers and investors.

<https://www.darkreading.com/edge-articles/cybersecurity-builds-trust-in-critical-infrastructure>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Protecting Critical Infrastructure from Bad Actors

<https://technative.io/protecting-critical-infrastructure-from-bad-actors/>

(UK) National Grid exploring cyber honeypots in bid to mitigate rising threats

<https://www.itpro.com/security/national-grid-exploring-cyber-honeypots-in-bid-to-mitigate-rising-threats>

(Asia) China’s Winnti APT Compromises National Grid in Asia for 6 Months

<https://www.darkreading.com/ics-ot/chinas-winnti-apt-compromises-national-grid-in-asia-for-6-months>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

New US intelligence suggests al Qaeda unlikely to revive in Afghanistan, but officials warn ISIS threat remains

Natasha Bertrand and Katie Bo Lillis – CNN: 8 September 2023

Two senior U.S. officials said it is unlikely the terrorist group will rise again in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and that counterterrorism operations by the Taliban in Afghanistan have degraded the Islamic State group's presence there.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/08/politics/us-intelligence-al-qaeda-afghanistan/index.html>

Terrorist Threats In The Philippines 22 Years After 9/11: Declining But Not Disappearing

Rommel C. Banlaoi – Eurasia Review: 11 September 2023

The U.S. Department of State strongly warns that armed groups associated with the Islamic State group remain the “deadliest threat” in the Philippines.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/11092023-terrorist-threats-in-the-philippines-22-years-after-9-11-declining-but-not-disappearing-analysis/>

For more on this theme:

CNN Exclusive: Never before seen footage of ISIS

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2023/09/06/exp-isis-terror-syria-exclusive-fst-090612pseg2-cnni-world.cnn>

SDF Report Capture of Senior ISIS Financier in Syria

<https://english.aawsat.com/arab-world/4534961-sdf-report-capture-senior-isis-financier-syria>

Belgium rejects ISIS bomber's plea not to be extradited to France

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/2023/09/13/belgium-rejects-isis-bombers-plea-not-to-be-extradited-to-france/>

Caliphs of the Shadows: The Islamic State's Leaders Post-Mawla

<https://ctc.westpoint.edu/caliphs-of-the-shadows-the-islamic-states-leaders-post-mawla>

Mozambique Grapples With Escalating Violence As Terror Attacks Persist

<https://humanglemedia.com/mozambique-grapples-with-escalating-violence-as-terror-attacks-persist/>

The State of al Qaeda and ISIS in 2023

<https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/the-state-of-al-qaeda-and-isis-in-2023>

Kerala-based ISIS group planned to loot churches & temples for funds

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2023/sep/13/kerala-based-isis-group-planned-to-loot-churches-temples-for-funds-2614242.html>

Terror Strikes Bajaur: A Call for Increased Security Measures in Pakistan

<https://theowp.org/terror-strikes-bajaur-a-call-for-increased-security-measures-in-pakistan/>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Organised crime – the fuel that ignited 9/11

Martin Ewi – Institute for Security Studies: 13 September 2023

Links between organized crime and terrorism in Africa have made it difficult to curb both offenses.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/organised-crime-the-fuel-that-ignited-911>

For more on this theme:

IntelBrief: The State of Global Terrorism Twenty-Two Years After September 11

<https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2023-september-11/>

On Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks, US Says Al-Qaida in Afghanistan all but Dead

<https://www.voanews.com/a/on-anniversary-of-9-11-attacks-us-says-al-qaida-in-afghanistan-all-but-dead-7263917.html>

Jihadist Groups Remain Active In Niger Republic Despite New Military Leadership

<https://humanglemedia.com/jihadist-groups-remain-active-in-niger-republic-despite-new-military-leadership/>

The Enduring Duel: Islamic State Khorasan's Survival under Afghanistan's New Rulers

<https://ctc.westpoint.edu/the-enduring-duel-islamic-state-khorasans-survival-under-afghanistans-new-rulers/>

Analysts See Anti-Hezbollah Sentiment Rising in Lebanon

<https://www.voanews.com/a/analysts-see-anti-hezbollah-sentiment-rising-in-lebanon/7244410.html>

The Taliban's Afghanistan: Retribution, Refugees, and Violent Extremism

<https://thediplomat.com/2023/08/the-talibans-afghanistan-retribution-refugees-and-violent-extremism/>

UK to designate Russia's Wagner a terror group, opening door to prosecutions

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/09/06/europe/russia-wagner-group-terrorist-organization-uk-intl/index.html>

From Islamic State to Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, radical groups fail to sway India's youth

<https://www.indianarrative.com/india-news/from-islamic-state-to-al-qaeda-in-the-indian-subcontinent-radical-groups-fail-to-sway-indias-youth-151257.html>

A national program in Niger encouraged jihadis to defect. The coup put its future in jeopardy

<https://apnews.com/article/niger-coup-former-jihadis-defector-program-4968dadb9987eb7d2f6aead-7b656ebca>

Is The Taliban Creating A Surveillance State In Afghanistan?

<https://www.rferl.org/a/azadi-briefing-taliban-surveillance-state-afghanistan/32574507.html>

Terror Groups Thriving Amidst Security Void in Asia

<https://www.asiasentinel.com/p/terror-groups-thriving-amidst-security-void-asia>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

For more on this theme:

Al Qaeda affiliate claims responsibility for attack on forces in Burkina Faso — Site Intelligence

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/law-order/2584541-al-qaeda-affiliate-claims-responsibility-for-attack-on-forces-in-burkina-faso--site-intelligence>

Terrorist Groups are Again Thriving in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan

https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/terrorist-groups-are-again-thriving-in-taliban-ruled-afghanistan

Prospects of TTP merger within Al-Qaeda

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2433568/prospects-of-ttp-merger-within-al-qaeda>

Kenya-Somalia Border: Rising al-Shabaab Threat in the Wake of ATMIS Drawdown

<https://acleddata.com/2023/09/01/special-report-kenya-somalia-border-rising-al-shabaab-threat-in-the-wake-of-atmis-drawdown/>

Somalia vs Al-Shabaab, a local war with global implications

<https://nation.africa/kenya/blogs-opinion/blogs/somalia-vs-al-shabaab-a-local-war-with-global-implications--4356142>

Global Terrorism Index finds attacks down, but becoming more lethal

<https://www.defenceweb.co.za/featured/global-terrorism-index-finds-attacks-down-but-becoming-more-lethal/>

The rebel's ride: How motorbike trafficking fuels conflict in West Africa

<https://www.theafricareport.com/320831/the-rebels-ride-how-motorbike-trafficking-fuels-conflict-in-west-africa/>

Benin must target the illicit activities that enable violent extremism

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/benin-must-target-the-illicit-activities-that-enable-violent-extremism>

Taliban Sign Multibillion-Dollar Afghan Mining Deals

<https://www.voanews.com/a/taliban-sign-multibillion-dollar-afghan-mining-deals/7249135.html>

Taliban's repressive rule in Afghanistan is driving its own demise

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3233071/talibans-repressive-rule-afghanistan-driving-its-own-demise>

Khobar Towers Bombing: A Tragic Reminder of Vigilance Against Terrorism

<https://sofrep.com/news/khobar-towers-bombing-a-tragic-reminder-of-vigilance-against-terrorism/>

Pakistan Army Versus Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan: All-Out War Or 'No Contest'?

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/04092023-pakistan-army-versus-tehreek-e-taliban-pakistan-all-out-war-or-no-contest-oped/>

Iran's Islamist Proxies in the Middle East

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/irans-islamist-proxies>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Ukraine, US Intelligence Suggest Russia Cyber Efforts Evolving, Growing

Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 7 September 2023

Russia's cyber operations may not have managed to land the big blow that many Western officials feared after Moscow's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, but Ukrainian officials caution Moscow has not stopped trying.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/ukraine-us-intelligence-suggest-russia-cyber-efforts-evolving-growing-/7259396.html>

For more on this theme:

Putin Is Betting On a New Class of Asset Owners to Shore Up His Regime

<https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/90543>

The consequences of Russia's war on Ukraine for climate action, food supply and energy security

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2023/09/consequences-russias-war-ukraine-climate-action-food-supply-and-energy-security>

Cyberwar and Conventional Warfare in Ukraine

<https://www.19fortyfive.com/2023/09/cyberwar-and-conventional-warfare-in-ukraine/>

Lessons From Ukraine for Security Force Assistance

<https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/lessons-from-ukraine-for-security-force-assistance>

Ukraine says Russia may soon launch big mobilisation drive

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-says-russia-may-soon-launch-big-mobilisation-drive-2023-09-11/>

Ukraine war: why the G20 refused to condemn Russian aggression — and how that might change

<https://theconversation.com/ukraine-war-why-the-g20-refused-to-condemn-russian-aggression-and-how-that-might-change-213384>

Ukraine wants help to pressure Russia to return children

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-wants-help-pressure-russia-return-illegally-transferred-children-2023-09-07/>

Here's what Russia is teaching high schoolers about Ukraine

<https://thehill.com/policy/international/4194990-heres-what-russia-is-teaching-high-schoolers-about-ukraine/>

Russia's war in Ukraine synonymous with torture: UN expert

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/09/russias-war-ukraine-synonymous-torture-un-expert>

Can Ukraine avoid a 'forever war' against Russia without talks?

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2023/0907/Can-Ukraine-avoid-a-forever-war-against-Russia-without-talks>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia's disastrous decision to invade Poland in 1920 has parallels with Putin's rhetoric over Ukraine

<https://theconversation.com/russias-disastrous-decision-to-invade-poland-in-1920-has-parallels-with-putins-rhetoric-over-ukraine-213016>

Belarusian leader Lukashenko has 'enabled' Russia's war in Ukraine, says European Parliament

<https://www.euronews.com/2023/09/14/belarusian-leader-lukashenko-has-enabled-russias-war-in-ukraine-says-european-parliament>

Russia's war in Ukraine is disrupting Antarctic science

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-02764-6>

Ukraine's partners cannot remove Putin but they can stop legitimizing him

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraines-partners-cannot-remove-putin-but-they-can-stop-legitimizing-him/>

It is still far too early to write off Ukraine's counteroffensive

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/it-is-still-far-too-early-to-write-off-ukraines-counteroffensive/>

Putin's North Korean "pariah summit" underlines his international isolation

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/putins-north-korean-pariah-summit-underlines-his-international-isolation/>

Russia Uses All Means to Recruit Central Asians for War in Ukraine

<https://jamestown.org/program/russia-uses-all-means-to-recruit-central-asians-for-war-in-ukraine/>

The Back-to-School Horror for Ukraine's Children

<https://time.com/6313622/ukraine-children-trauma-school/>

Russian Disinformation about Ukrainian Refugees in Poland

<https://warsawinstitute.org/russian-disinformation-about-ukrainian-refugees-in-poland/>

China is eroding Russia's influence over old allies as the alliance it leads crumbles over Ukraine, expert says

<https://www.businessinsider.com/china-eroding-russia-influence-over-csto-allies-amid-ukraine-war-expert-2023-8>

Ukraine's slow-going counteroffensive against Russia building momentum: Analysis

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/ukraines-slow-counteroffensive-building-momentum-analysis/story?id=102970839>

What the Putin-Kim authoritarian get-together means for Russia's war and North Korea's capabilities

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RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

The war between Ukraine and Russia will become more difficult as winter brings mud and snow

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-12/russia-ukraine-war-winter-mud-snow-cold-temperature-strategy/102839110>

Russia seeks to legitimize occupation of Ukraine with sham elections

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The Black Sea Peace Dividend — Gas, Gas, Gas

<https://cepa.org/article/the-black-sea-peace-dividend-gas-gas-gas/>

The Kremlin's Very Own Know-Nothings

<https://cepa.org/article/the-kremlins-very-own-know-nothings/>

Ukraine War Lesson No. 1 — Chatty Micromanagers Die

<https://cepa.org/article/ukraine-war-lesson-no-1-chatty-micromanagers-die/>

'Woe to My Enemies' Rages Russia's Mouthpiece-in-Chief

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Putin psychological analysis shows anger and disgust but no fear

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Ukraine-war/Putin-psychological-analysis-shows-anger-and-disgust-but-no-fear>

'Desperation of Putin regime': Foreign soldiers used as 'cannon fodder' in Ukraine

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Von der Leyen talks up Ukraine's EU prospects but Hungary seen as stumbling block

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Putin-Erdogan Prioritize Themselves

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Russia's Unprecedented War Budget Explained

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How Does the Kremlin Man the War in Ukraine?

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Russian War Report: A new recruitment push for fighters from Russia to Hungary

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/russian-war-report-new-recruitment-push-russian-fighters-hungary/>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Europol: Russia's war on Ukraine led to significant boost in DDoS attacks on EU targets

<https://sofiaglobe.com/2023/09/13/europol-russias-war-on-ukraine-led-to-significant-boost-in-ddos-attacks-on-eu-targets/>

Ukraine has Moscow in its crosshairs but that shouldn't make us squeamish

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Ukraine's Fight on the Front Lines of the Information Environment

<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/ukraines-fight-on-the-front-lines-of-the-information-environment/>

Why Russia's failures in Ukraine could be a win for North Korea

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/07/asia/north-korea-russia-military-relations-intl-hnk-ml/index.html>

Ukraine is furious with Elon Musk for thwarting an attack on Russia's navy

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Cuba arrests 17 for trafficking young men to fight for Russia in Ukraine

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Seeking a breakthrough

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