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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Looking under the surface of politics in Latin America
Peter Dizikes – MIT News: 24 September 2019
An MIT professor finds widespread corruption in Latin American elections and suggests some methods to reduce its influence.

For more on this theme:
Micro-loans raise major questions in Cambodia
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/micro-loans-raise-major-questions-cambodia

Does innovative enforcement help or hurt anti-corruption efforts?

‘Europe Couldn’t Export Democracy to Russia, but Russia has Exported Corruption to Europe,’ Kasparov Says

Zelensky urges Ukrainians to call NABU hotline to report on bribery, corruption facts

Where and Why Do Modern Pirate Attacks Happen?
https://theglobepost.com/2019/09/24/modern-piracy-explained/

OUTGOING CHICAGO FBI CHIEF HINTS AT MORE CORRUPTION INDICTMENTS, CALLS FOR TERM LIMITS

DRUG TRAFFICKING

The Future of Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Opioids
Bryce Pardo, Jirka Taylor, Jonathan P. Caulkins, Beau Kilmer, Peter Reuter and Bradley D. Stein – Rand Corp.: 29 August 2019
The synthetic opioid fentanyl is becoming predominant in many parts of the United States and Canada, despite surveys that show most opioid users would prefer to avoid synthetics. Growth is driven by supply, rather than demand, because traffickers find the drug cheaper and less risky to produce and transport.
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR3117.html

Full report:
https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR3100/RR3117/RAND_RR3117.pdf
Record Cocaine Hauls Confirm Guinea-Bissau’s ‘Narco-State’ Reputation
Chris Dalby – InSight Crime: 25 September 2019

Guinea-Bissau is losing its war against drug trafficking because it lacks the resources to fight effectively, its president says. The country remains a primary gateway for South American drugs destined for the markets of Europe.


For more on this theme:

SWJ BOOK REVIEW – “DEPORTED TO DEATH: HOW DRUG VIOLENCE IS CHANGING MIGRATION ON THE US-MEXICO BORDER”

Venezuela-FARC Drug Trafficking Alliance May Explain DEA Expulsion

Why Recruitment, Drugging of Child Soldiers, and Trade in Narcotics are Human Rights Issues

Interpol closes drug trafficking conference in South Africa with call for increased global law enforcement cooperation

From Philippine jails, Chinese drug lords are directing illegal trade: ex-police general

Kerala Police to monitor darknet to keep tabs on drug syndicates

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

The fight to bring a deadly illegal industry to justice
Léa Surugue – BBC News: 24 September 2019

DNA analysis and other forensic techniques commonly portrayed on television crime dramas are helping to track down poachers, smugglers and traffickers who prey on protected animal species.


BUG SMUGGLING IS BIG BUSINESS
Jani Actman – Investigative Reporting Workshop: 25 September 2019

There is a thriving demand from exotic pet enthusiasts for a wide variety of insects, many of them on endangered lists. Some are crucial to their native ecosystems.

https://investigativereportingworkshop.org/investigation/bug-smuggling-is-big-business/
For more on this theme:

**Gold mining leaves heart of Peruvian Amazon a wasteland**
https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/gold-mining-leaves-heart-of-peruvian-amazon-a-wasteland

**Conservation and business researchers partner to disrupt wildlife trafficking**

**Indonesia’s Pangolin Trafficking Network Resembles Sophisticated Drug Trade**
https://international.thenewslens.com/feature/pangolin-conservation/125198

**The Amazon is still on fire. Conservation groups blame illegal logging and criminal networks.**

**A million species of plant and animal are at risk of extinction**

**Drones Are Limited Weapon Against Illegal Mining in Peru**

**Uganda’s forests are disappearing. He’s fighting back.**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION**

**A dangerous red flower is driving record numbers of migrants to flee Guatemala**
Daniel Gonzalez – USA Today: 26 September 2019
A crackdown on poppy cultivation by the Guatemalan government is helping to fuel the wave of irregular migration to the United States. Legal alternative crops bring only a fraction of what the cartels pay for heroin’s source plant, driving poor farmers to look for opportunity abroad.

**Look, don’t touch: Thai bars raided for trafficking child ‘entertainers’**
Nanchanok Wongsamuth – Thomson Reuters Foundation: 25 September 2019
Stung by a crackdown on child sex trafficking in Thailand, traffickers are now using scantily dressed, underage girls just to lure men into bars and brothels.
http://news.trust.org/item/20190924233530-bqz4c/

For more on this theme:

**Talitha Kum: 10 years of hard work against human trafficking**

**Can sex trafficking be prevented?**
IOM Launches Five Campaigns to Prevent Irregular Migration in Mexico and Central America

Morocco Opens Investigation Into Irregular Migration Network

Role of Uzbekistan in Curbing Regional Human Trafficking

Implications of irregular migration
https://punchng.com/implications-of-irregular-migration/

AP Explains: Libya’s instability a focus of concern at UN
https://www.apnews.com/3baea2d1ecc14d97bf760e0ab5b20e53

MONEY LAUNDERING

The EU’s Efforts to Combat Money Laundering, the Financing of Terrorism and Corruption Seem to Overlook a Very American Approach: Prosecute People
The National Law Review: 17 September 2019
A series of reports examining money laundering in Europe offers familiar solutions to the systemic problem, an indication that a different approach may be needed.

MONEYVAL: swift action needed to combat money laundering and terrorist financing risks
Council of Europe: 25 September 2019
The Council of Europe’s agency that monitors the effectiveness of anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing efforts has released a report that finds robust measures are needed to combat the “dirty money” threat.

Full report:
MONEYVAL Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism
https://rm.coe.int/moneyval-annual-report-2018/168097e0a2

For more on this theme:
El Salvador’s Nayib Bukele Tainted by Money Laundering Allegations

Google’s Breslow: Very little actual financial crime is being detected
Kenyans deposit KSh22bn as old bank notes go out of circulation
https://www.theafricareport.com/17690/kenyas-war-on-money-laundering-continues-but-counterfeiters-are-back/

Australia audits PayPal for money laundering, terror law compliance

Regulators Need to Catch Up: Good Behaviour – Not Bad – Is the Key to Fighting Financial Crime

Banker Linked To Russian Money-Laundering Case Found Dead In Estonia

Explained: Scheer promises to launch national inquiry into money laundering

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET FREEDOM

Vietnamese Blogger Wins Press Freedom Award
Vu Pham and Ha Nguyen – Voice of America: 13 September 2019
Reporters Without Borders awarded its 2019 Press Freedom Prize for Impact to Vietnamese blogger Pham Doan Trang, who, at great physical risk to herself, uses her online platform to report on civil rights issues.

For more on this theme:
(Hong Kong) Abuse of journalists an attack on press freedom

(Thailand) CPJ calls on Thai prime minister to restore press freedom

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

One Brother Stabbed the Other. The Journalist Who Wrote About It Paid a Price.
The “Right to be Forgotten” enshrined in European law through the General Data Protection Regulation has fostered a conflict between two important concepts: the privacy rights of individuals and the right of a free press to publish and, in this case, maintain online indefinitely even the most minor news for public consumption.
For more on this theme:

(U.S.) The Dangerous Implications of Amazon Ring Creating a Nationwide Surveillance Network with Law Enforcement

(EU, Global) Google wins case over reach of EU ‘right to be forgotten’
https://www.apnews.com/4e2be07b6dad34d34a87ab15cc1806eb5

(Global) Internet Freedom Advocate Raises Alarm Over Facial Recognition

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Fighting Shadows in the Dark: Understanding and Countering Coercion in Cyberspace
Quentin E. Hodgson, Logan Ma, Krystyna Marcinek and Karen Schwindt – Rand Corp.: 17 September 2019

China, Russia, North Korea and Iran have used cyber operations to coerce neighboring states and can be expected to expand the use of cyber tools in the future. The United States and its allies need to develop the capabilities to identify and counter cyber coercion.

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2961.html

For more on this theme:

(Australia, China) Making Sense of ‘Cyber-Restraint’: The Australia-China Case

(U.S., China) America Needs to Win the Battle for 5G Supremacy

PUBLIC/PREPARTNERSHIP

Former DHS chiefs call for greater public-private cooperation to boost nation’s cybersecurity
Andrew Blake – The Washington Times: 10 September 2019

Three former U.S. Department of Homeland Security heads say the federal government needs to do more to deter and defend U.S. systems from state-sponsored cyber attacks and that this requires greater cooperation between the public and private sectors.


For more on this theme:

(New Zealand, Global) Tech companies organisation to stop terrorists online

(Australia) Canberra Cyber Security Node to accelerate innovation, commercial development
(Oman) Oman ranks third globally in cyber-attack readiness

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

China steals US designs for new weapons, and it's getting away with ‘the greatest intellectual property theft in human history’
Ellen Ioanes – Business Insider: 24 September 2019

China is stealing its way to technological parity with the United States in military and civilian sectors through traditional espionage and by legally investing in companies and appropriating their intellectual property.

For more on this theme:
(China) China’s Intellectual Property Courts: A Procedural Overview

(Global) Why protecting intellectual property matters

(U.K.) Science and innovation: Protecting intellectual property

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

How Google Changed the Secretive Market for the Most Dangerous Hacks in the World
Lorenzo Franceschi-Bicchierai: 23 September 2019

Google’s in-house team of hackers has made the internet a safer place for users by finding more than 1,500 bugs in some of the world’s most-used software, including that of Google’s competitors.

For more on this theme:
(Tibet, China) iPhone Hackers Who Spied on Uighurs Also Targeted Tibetans
https://www.pcmag.com/news/370932/iphone-hackers-who-spied-on-uighurs-also-targeted-tibetans

(U.S.) US defence dept. unveils counter-insider threat programme

(Kuwait) Kuwait logistics companies target of cyber attacks
https://www.thenational.ae/business/technology/kuwait-logistics-companies-target-of-cyber-attacks-1.914421
**CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

**US Cyber Command Signals More Aggressive Approach Involving Persistent Engagement Ahead of 2020 Election**

Nicole Lindsey – CPO Magazine: 16 September 2019

U.S. Cyber Command said it will be much more proactive in defending American cyberspace, including critical infrastructure associated with the 2020 U.S. elections. A new "persistent engagement" policy will use an escalated offensive cyber posture against cyber aggressors.


For more on this theme:

(Russia, Israel, Global) This Map Shows All the Code Connections Between Russia's Hacker Groups

https://www.wired.com/story/russia-hacker-groups-map/

(U.S.) Why Enterprises Prefer AI for Securing Critical Infrastructure?


**INFORMATION SHARING**

**Could this cyber partnership help national security?**

Andrew Eversden – Fifth Domain: 6 September 2019

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency seeks an information sharing partnership with the new Cybersecurity Directorate at the National Security Agency to defend against cyber attacks on critical infrastructure.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Cybersecurity is urgently needed, say experts

https://menafn.com/1098978286/Cybersecurity-is-urgently-needed-say-experts

(U.S., Global) Huawei Users At Risk As U.S. Blacklist Cuts Access To Shared Data On New Cyber Threats


(Japan) Record number to take part in cyber-attack drill ahead of Tokyo Olympics


**NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS**

**The Cyberlaw Podcast: Bankrupting National Security?**

Stewart Baker – Lawfare: 9 September 2019

Camille Stewart discusses how Chinese companies have been acquiring sensitive U.S. national security technology through U.S. bankruptcy courts, which are not designed to prevent improper technology transfers.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Risky Business #556 -- US Treasury targets DPRK crews, more details on Ukraine power hack
https://risky.biz/RB556/

(Global) The CyberWire Daily Podcast – Episode 934

STRATEGY AND POLICY

How The U.S. Hacked ISIS
Dina Temple-Raston – National Public Radio: 26 September 2019
In 2016, U.S. cyber warriors hacked and took down ISIS’ entire online communications and propaganda operation in a massive, coordinated attack from which the terrorist group never fully recovered. Now the U.S. wants other potential adversaries to know, and maybe fear, what it can do.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Integrating National Defense and Security Strategies to Win Complex Wars

(U.S.) With 5G in mind, senators plan big boost for Pentagon cybersecurity

(Global) Cybersecurity and digital trade: Getting it right
https://www.brookings.edu/research/cybersecurity-and-digital-trade-getting-it-right/

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Abdullah Qardash: IS Successor To Al-Baghdadi?
Remy Mahzam – S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies: 20 September 2019
Abdullah Qardash, a former officer in Saddam Hussein’s army who rose through the Islamic State’s ranks, is reportedly the named successor to reclusive ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, possibly reflecting an effort by the terrorist group to regain prominence.
https://www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-publication/icpvtr/abdullah-qardash-is-successor-to-al-baghdadi/#.XYkj7uRvQx4

Returning Isis fighters and brides must face full rigours of law – Nato deputy head
Conor Lally – The Irish Times: 20 September 2019
NATO’s deputy secretary-general says that foreign fighters and ISIS brides wanting to return to their countries of origin should receive fair legal treatment but be held responsible in a court of law for any crimes they may have committed.
For more on this theme:

**ISIS Prepares for Breakout in Prisons and Camps**

**Trump Rules Out Sending Captured ISIS Fighters To Guantánamo Bay**

**US provides over $6 million to displaced minorities in Iraq**
https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/94e169d8-342a-48fc-842f-3a0d02a181ec

**From ISIS camp, Syrian families return home to Raqqa**

**U.S. launches strike in southern Libya as U.N. warns of escalation**

**Opening Remarks During the GCTF “Threats, Challenges and Resources Related to FTF and Family Repatriation” Side Event**

**Malaysia arrests 15 over links to Islamic State**

**Netherlands wants Dutch jihadists to be tried in Iraq: report**

**Jury Finds Brooklyn Man Guilty of Conspiracy and Attempting to Provide Material Support to ISIS**
https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/jury-finds-brooklyn-man-guilty-conspiracy-and-attempting-provide-material-support-isis

**TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD**

**Film follows Boko Haram survivors after village invasion**
*PBS News Hour: 22 September 2019*

A documentary follows three women who fled their Nigerian village after a 2014 Boko Haram invasion, capturing their attempts to rebuild their lives. The film shows how they symbolize the plight of other women and girls who survived abductions and sexual assault.

https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/film-follows-boko-haram-survivors-after-village-invasion

**Military Drones Now Common to Nearly 100 Nations, Report Finds**

Drone operations are being embedded in armed forces worldwide in ways that are changing global security, according to research from Bard College in New York. Drones are being used by Houthi rebels in Yemen and drug cartels in Latin America. Eight countries have used drones in Syria and Iraq.

https://www.wsj.com/articles/military-drones-now-common-to-nearly-100-nations-report-finds-11569403805
Return to Table of Contents

Full report:
https://dronecenter.bard.edu/projects/drone-proliferation/databook/

For more on this theme:

**Singapore arrests domestic Indonesian domestic workers for ‘funding’ ISIL**

**Nigeria army accuses international aid agency of feeding Boko Haram terrorists**

**Islamic State trains in Somalia’s Puntland**

**Ex-Boko Haram fighters face their hardest battle: Reintegration**

**Police Expose Major Figure of Cilincing Terrorism Network**
https://en.tempo.co/read/1251925/police-expose-major-figure-of-cilincing-terrorism-network

**Afghan officials identify AQIS members killed in controversial Musa Qala raid**

**Afghan Reporter Dies From Blast Wounds, Seventh Journalist Killed In Country This Year**
https://www.rferl.org/a/afghan-reporter-dies-from-blast-wounds-seventh-journalist-killed-in-country-this-year/30183146.html

**Boko Haram kills abducted humanitarian worker**

**WHITE NATIONALIST TERRORISM**

**DHS Strategic Framework for Countering Terrorism and Targeted Violence**
*Department of Homeland Security: September 2019*

Analysis:
http://www.soufangroup.com/intelbrief-dhs-recognizes-white-supremacy-extremism-but-more-needs-to-be-done/

**Mexico plans summit to target rise of white supremacy**
*Alfredo Corchado – The Dallas Morning News: 21 September 2019*
Mexico wants to hold a summit of leaders from Spanish-speaking nations by the end of the year to develop a strategy to combat white supremacy and draft a policy position based on shared political and cultural values.
For more on this theme:

**Meeting the Challenge of White Nationalist Terrorism at Home and Abroad**

**Ahmed Shaheed (Special Rapporteur) on Combating Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Racism and Hate**

**New UN report on combating anti-Semitism warns phenomenon ‘toxic’ to societies**

**New list of white supremacist memes, symbols, slogans added to ADL guide**
https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Antisemitism/New-list-of-white-supremacist-memes-symbols-slogans-added-to-ADL-guide-602940

**Russia ‘adding violent energy’ to white supremacy around the globe, US experts claim**

**Terror police have ‘no plan’ to tackle white nationalist group that inspired Christchurch attack**

**Shut down and investigate: Calls to stop neo-Nazi concert**

**RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING**

**The Mental Toll of Violent Imagery**
Graeme Wood – The Atlantic: 24 September 2019
The author describes the numbing effect of watching gruesome terrorist videos. “The whole point of those videos is to terrify their viewers, and to nibble away at the mental health of ... enemies of the Islamic State.”

**A Community Effort: How Communal Isolation Contributes to Radicalization**
Mathew Giagnorio – European Eye on Radicalization: 20 September 2019
A form of “communal isolation” may be a factor behind the radicalization of youths who identify with terrorist organizations such as ISIS. Being isolated within their community’s traditions and customs (often orthodox in tone) and not allowed social mobility beyond the confines of that community creates a limited framework of identity.
https://eeradicalization.com/a-community-effort-how-communal-isolation-contributes-to-radicalization/
For more on this theme:

Calgary radicalization program that combats radicalization redirects to help others ‘crying out for help’

Europol and the Spanish National Police arrest serious supporter of the so-called Islamic State

Former soldier pleads guilty to plotting ISIS-inspired President’s Day attack on Kansas City
https://taskandpurpose.com/army-soldier-isis-inspired-presidents-day-attack-kansas-city

The Man Behind a Toxic Slogan Promoting White Supremacy

Exclusive: Europe’s children of the so-called Islamic State

The Transnational Nature of Violent White Supremacy Extremism
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/the-transnational-nature-of-violent-white-supremacy-extremism

White extremists tap ISIS playbook, terror experts tell Congress

TERRORISM AND THE INTERNET

Fighting the Islamic State group online
BBC News: 24 September 2019
When Islamic State terrorists took Mosul in Iraq in 2014, they flooded the internet with pro-ISIS propaganda. One historian living in the city decided to launch a counternarrative online. Omar Mohammed, at great personal risk, set up “Mosul Eye” to expose the atrocities and failings of ISIS fighters.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07p4vv2

Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Microsoft are officially making their joint counter-terror program an independent body
Thomas Chenel and Ruqayyah Moynihan – Business Insider France: 25 September 2019
The Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, an industry watchdog created by Google, Facebook, Twitter and Microsoft in 2017 to vet extremist content online, will become an independent body funded by the tech giants and will operate with an executive director and a dedicated staff.

For more on this theme:

UK to help develop new tech to stop sharing of terrorist content
MEPs want internet firms to remove content promoting terrorism within an hour

How Much Power Did Facebook Give Its Oversight Board?
https://www.lawfareblog.com/how-much-power-did-facebook-give-its-oversight-board

US soldier arrested on charge of sharing bomb instructions
https://www.apnews.com/90eaf705cbb84b30aca6d697c5d22d8d

American inside Syrian prison says he was recruited to ISIS online

Countering Domestic Terrorism: Examining the Evolving Threat

Can you code a way to foil online terrorist vids? The Home Office might just have £600K for you
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2019/09/24/can_you_code_a_way_to_foil_terrorist_vids_on_social_media_the_home_office_might_just_have_600k_for_you/