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 Capacity Building
  Cyber Attacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
  Cybercrime
  Critical Infrastructure Protection

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
  ISIS and Foreign Fighters
  Terrorism Around the World
  Crime and Conflict
  Russia/Ukraine
  Hybrid Threats and Irregular Warfare

The Marshall Center Transnational Weekly is a current awareness, information and policy tool for Marshall Center stakeholders to inform them about online publications by think tanks, research institutes and other organizations that deal with transnational subjects. Use of these brief excerpts and links does not reflect the views of or endorsement by the Marshall Center, the U.S. government or the German government. All original content in these compilations is copyrighted unless specifically noted otherwise. All rights to copyrighted items are reserved.
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

**Venezuela’s Police Reform Unlikely to Halt Corrupt Ties to Organized Crime**

*InSight Crime: 18 January 2023*

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has announced a police reform plan that, on the surface, could appear to be a blueprint for a police state. If enacted, it would achieve little more than flooding the streets with easily corruptible police forces.


**Top EU lawmakers say no party immune to potential corruption**

*Lorne Cook – The Associated Press: 17 January 2023*

Senior members of the European Union’s parliament say a corruption scandal ravaging the assembly could have happened to any political group, not just the main center-left bloc.

https://apnews.com/article/politics-germany-government-qatar-europe-morocco-e6cda264d074f83ad69e0f-0ccc6e412e

*For more on this theme:*

**On the Horns of a Dilemma: Will Corruption Bring Down the Chinese Communist Party?**


**India investigates Food Corporation officials for possible corruption — source**


**Indonesia prosecutors decry ‘lenient’ sentences in palm oil corruption case**


**IMF says corruption has inflated costs of high-profile projects in Zambia**


**Defeating Ukraine’s other enemy: corruption**

https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3808449-defeating-ukraines-other-enemy-corruption/

**An Arab soccer tournament tackles corruption**


**Illegally Legalised: The Corruption Involved in Building Belgrade**


**EU corruption scandal suspect cuts deal with prosecutors**


**Vietnam’s Anti-Corruption Drive Claims President**

DRUG TRAFFICKING

How Important Is Peru’s Port of Callao for Cocaine Trade?
Scott Mistler-Ferguson – InSight Crime: 12 January 2023

Despite not getting the same attention as major ports in Ecuador or Brazil, Peru’s port of Callao, near the capital, Lima, has remained a crucial launch pad for cocaine heading for international markets.


Drug trafficking trial begins for Mexico’s former top security official in charge of fighting cartels
Mark Stevenson – The Associated Press: 17 January 2023

Genaro García Luna is scheduled to go on trial on charges he accepted millions of dollars in bribes in exchange for helping the powerful Sinaloa cartel move drugs and its members avoid capture.

https://apnews.com/article/mexico-government-united-states-legal-proceedings-caribbean-44150ba915e6cb7157125f0dd87c546a

For more on this theme:
How Will Ovidio’s Arrest in Mexico Affect Sinaloa Cartel and the Fentanyl Trade?
Concrete Cocaine: Ecuador’s Pioneering Drug Destruction Method
Drug Smuggling Into Israel Is at an All-time High. Good News for Terrorists
Drug seizures in Arabian Sea highlight regional narcotics trade
EU’s drugs agency concerned the continent is becoming a centre for drug production
https://www.euronews.com/2023/01/10/eus-drugs-agency-concerned-the-continent-is-becoming-a-centre-for-drug-production
Pakistan-Backed Crime Syndicates Create ‘Hash Highways’ Across The IOR
Cyprus is in the midst of the new ‘Narcos’
Reports of Brazil’s PCC Taking Over Portugal Cocaine Trade Remain Unfounded
Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport Becoming Arrival Point for Mexican Drugs
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Instability fuels North Africa's illegal tobacco trade
Abdelkader Abderrahmane – Institute for Security Studies: 5 January 2023
Political and economic insecurity in the Balkans and Libya benefit transnational trafficking syndicates.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/instability-fuels-north-africas-illegal-tobacco-trade

Data analytics can help protect the Amazon Basin. Here’s how
Ilona Szabó de Carvalho – World Economic Forum: 12 January 2023
Destruction of the Amazon will cause irreversible climate damage unless we intervene. Environmental crimes, such as illegal logging and wildlife trafficking, are major problems in the region. Better data insights can support environmentally responsible economic opportunities.

For more on this theme:
Venezuela's Yapacana National Park suffering increasing mining deforestation: report

How a sinking gold town in Ecuador is contaminating a Peruvian river

Why Are Zimbabwe's Gold Miners Risking Deadly Mercury Exposure

Pew Experts Share How Global Cooperation Improves Fisheries Management

West Africa's donkeys fall prey to organised crime
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/west-africas-donkeys-fall-prey-to-organised-crime

FAO Intensifies Fight Against IUU Fishing

China’s aim to be a wildlife conservation leader undermined by its exploitation of endangered species

Deforestation imperils famed DR Congo reserve as refugees flood in

Illegal wildlife trade continues to threaten African elephants
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

How Japan’s ‘trusted web’ could improve digital governance
Daichi Iwata and Takanori Fujita – World Economic Forum: 18 January 2023

The Japanese government is developing a new system for digital governance known as the "trusted web." This shares some of the democratizing elements of Web3 but prioritizes trust and verification of information. The trusted web could offer a way to govern the internet transparently and safely.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Explore the relationship between IoT governance and privacy

(GLOBAL) Kleinwaechters Treasure Map
https://circleid.com/posts/20230118-kleinwaechters-treasure-map

(GLOBAL) Connected devices need better governance: Here’s how to achieve it
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/01/connected-devices-need-better-governance/

INTERNET FREEDOM

Internet shutdowns cost Ethiopia $146 million in 2022
Faustine Ngila – Quartz: 12 January 2023

An internet blackout is still ongoing in Ethiopia’s Tigray region even after a truce was signed in November 2022 to end two years of war.

https://qz.com/ethiopia-lost-146-million-due-to-internet-blackouts-1849978475

For more on this theme:

(China, Global) China proposes UN treaty criminalizes ‘dissemination of false information’
https://therecord.media/china-proposes-un-treaty-criminalizing-dissemination-of-false-information/

(Iran, Global) Can the West Circumvent the Iranian Regime’s Ultimate Monopoly of the Internet?

(GLOBAL) Over Four Billion People Affected By Internet Censorship in 2022

(China) Chinese Protesters and the Global Internet Need One Another
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

The world is heading for a ‘quantum divide’: here’s why it matters
Jack Hidary and Arunima Sarkar – World Economic Forum: 18 January 2023
Together with advances in artificial intelligence, robotics, the Internet of Things and nanotechnology, quantum technology will exponentially accelerate the Fourth Industrial Revolution. For those who lead in this field, the impact will be far-reaching and significant.

For more on this theme:
(India) India set to add about 250 megawatt data centre capacity 2023: Savills
(U.S.) DoD Cyber and Digital Service Academy is Expanding the Cyber Workforce
(Philippines) Marcos: PH to establish ‘cybersecurity system’ to ramp up govt digitalization

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Royal Mail ransomware attackers threaten to publish stolen data
Jasper Jolly – The Guardian: 12 January 2023
The U.K. postal service has received a ransom note purporting to be from LockBit, a hacker group widely thought to have close links to Russia.
https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/jan/12/royal-mail-ransomware-attackers-threaten-to-publish-stolen-data

For more on this theme:
(U.S., Russia) Russian hacker group took a shot at three American top nuclear labs
(Albania) Albanian PM: Country under daily cyberattacks
https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/albanian-pm-country-under-daily-cyberattacks/
(Russia, Denmark) Russian hacking group claims responsibility for cyberattacks on Danish websites
(Global) Unchecked Cyberattacks ‘Are Growing Threat To Fragile Global Economy’
CYBERCRIME

Cybercrime Initiative to Boost Coordination between Private Sector and Law Enforcement

*Modern Diplomacy: 18 January 2023*

The World Economic Forum launched an initiative to map cybercriminal activities and identify joint public and private sector responses.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) The true cost of cybercrime revealed and how to put a dent in it


(China) How Restrictive Laws Are Pushing Chinese Cyber-Criminals Towards Novel Monetization Techniques


(Canada) ‘Cybercrime Atlas’ will help police, tech companies fight threat actors


CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

How Prepared Are Organizations For Imminent Cyber Threats In Critical Infrastructure?

*Daniel Lee – International Business Times: 16 January 2023*

Companies cutting across industry lines are highly interconnected today. The critical infrastructure industries are no exception. The proliferation of Internet of Things devices has made these organizations increasingly connected to the outside world, and increasingly vulnerable.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Critical Infrastructure: Why It’s The New Target For Cybercriminals A Discussion With Ian Bramson


(NATO) NATO tests AI’s ability to protect critical infrastructure against cyberattacks


(U.S.) The US cybersecurity imperative: fortifying critical infrastructure

https://www.cyberscoop.com/critical-infrastructure-cybersecurity-imperative/
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

ISIS and Its Regional Affiliates Remain Persistent and Pervasive Threat Worldwide
Mahmut Cengiz – Homeland Security Today: 16 January 2023
The Islamic State group’s legacy has influenced its regional branches, which have continued to threaten regional and global security in Asia and Africa.

Pakistan Warns Cash-Strapped Taliban Fighters May Join ISIS Amid Unrest
Tom O’Connor – Newsweek: 13 January 2023
Pakistan’s envoy to the United Nations told Newsweek that unless the economic situation improves in Afghanistan, the ruling Taliban may begin to lose members to the even more hardline Islamic State group.

For more on this theme:
Former IS families face neighbors’ hatred returning home

Major Losses Shift Islamic State, Al-Qaida’s Balance of Power

Islamic State called on Muslims in Singapore to join terror group: Report

Afghanistan Conundrum And India-ISKP Nexus — OpEd

Syria: Bring extremists’ children out — but leave mothers?

Between War and Red Tape, Many Iraqis in Legal Limbo

ISKP Flexes Its Propaganda Muscles on Social Media
https://thediplomat.com/2023/01/iskp-flexes-its-propaganda-muscles-on-social-media/

The Case of Farhad Hoomer: Is South Africa Becoming Islamic State’s Regional Fundraising Hub?
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Deconstructing Counterterrorism: What Has Worked and What More Needs To Be Done
European Eye on Radicalization: 13 January 2023

Thomas Renard, director of the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, discusses the evolution of terrorism since the 19th century, highlighting important developments in counter-terrorism.


For more on this theme:

Boko Haram: An Inspiring Model for Criminal Gangs and Beyond

As TTP Attacks Mount, Pakistan Runs out of Patience With Afghan Taliban

ISIS poses a threat to the Taliban’s rule
https://www.fairplanet.org/editors-pick/isis-poses-a-threat-the-the-talibans-rule/

The proliferation of Terrorism in West Africa
https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2022/12/31/the-proliferation-of-terrorism-in-west-africa/

Pakistan: Cross-Border Terrorism Coming from Afghanistan

Terrorist recruitment now happens mainly online -- which makes offenders easier to catch
https://theconversation.com/terrorist-recruitment-now-happens-mainly-online-which-makes-offenders-easier-to-catch-196313

Resistance to the Taliban: Current status and prospects for the future
https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/resistance-to-the-taliban/

Al Qaeda succession after al-Zawahiri’s death still unclear — U.S. official

Are al-Qaeda’s 2022 Activities a Harbinger of the Terror Group’s Resurgence?

Defeating Al-Shabab should be a global priority
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2229356

The Taliban’s Repression of Women is Not Only a Problem for Afghanistan
https://eeradicalization.com/the-talibans-repression-of-women-is-not-only-a-problem-for-afghanistan/

Explosive drones emerging threats for Ethiopia, Horn: IGAD
https://www.thereporterethiopia.com/29518/
CRIME AND CONFLICT

Ukrainian civilians vanish and languish in Russian-run jails
Hanna Arhirova and Dasha Litvinova – The Associated Press: 17 January 2023

Hundreds — and perhaps thousands — of Ukrainian noncombatants are thought to be held by Russian forces. Some are deemed to be prisoners of war, even though they never took part in the fighting. Others are in a sort of legal limbo — not facing any criminal charges or considered to be POWs.


For more on this theme:

Honduras Makes Progress in Tamping Violence — But at What Cost?

Germany calls for special tribunal against Russia over Ukraine war
https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/germany-calls-special-tribunal-against-russia-over-ukraine-war-2023-01-16/

Ukraine: Russia has continuously committed serious human rights violations
https://onu.delegfrance.org/since-the-beginning-of-its-aggression-against-ukraine-russia-has-continuously

Africa: Conflicts, Violence Threaten Rights

At least 11 die in Colombia as ELN rebels clash with dissident ex-FARC fighters

War Leaving Invisible Scars for Ukrainians, Under-Secretary-General Tells Security Council, Noting One Fourth of Population Will Develop Mental-Health Condition

The hard road to justice for Russian war crimes
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/hard-road-justice-russian-war-crimes

Russia's Crime and Punishment: How to Prosecute the Illegal War in Ukraine

Ukraine Declares That Russian Cyber Attacks May Be Viewed as War Crimes, Plans To Take Cases to the Hague

Driving destruction: Cattle rustling and instability in Nigeria
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/cattle-rustling-instability-nigeria/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

NATO warns of Russia’s long war in Ukraine, vows to be ready

NATO must prepare “for the long haul” and support Ukraine for as long as it takes, the alliance’s deputy secretary-general told military chiefs from across Europe.

https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-nato-politics-mircea-geoana-e178af41a4f93ead9a427484ea06d-baf

For more on this theme:

Ukraine war: Russia’s Wagner Group commander requests Norway asylum

Putin says Russian military operation going well in Ukraine
https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-says-it-launched-missile-strikes-against-ukraine-satur-day-2023-01-15/

Ukraine struggles to repair power grid as Russian airstrikes continue

Putin’s nuclear blackmail must not prevent the liberation of Crimea

How Europe can help Ukraine defeat Russia and win the peace in 2023

Mona Yacoubian on Russia’s Diminishing Role in Syria
https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/01/mona-yacoubian-russias-diminishing-role-syria

Russia’s war in Ukraine reaches a critical moment

How the war in Ukraine hinders US-Russian nuclear arms control

Serbia asks Russia to end recruitment of its people for Ukraine war
https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/serbia-asks-russia-end-recruitment-its-people-ukraine-war-2023-01-17/

How Russia’s New Commander in Ukraine Could Change the War

Untarnished by War: Why Russia’s Soft Power Is So Resilient in Serbia
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88828

How 2022 Changed Regional Politics in Russia
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88810
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

What the Kremlin Really Hoped to Achieve With Its Ceasefire Proposal
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88794

Invasion of Ukraine slammed Russia’s global reputation, poll shows

Russian Success or Pyrrhic Victory: Is The Battle For Soledar A 'Trap' For Russian Forces?
https://www.rferl.org/a/russian-forces-soledar-ukraine-pyrrhic-victory-trap/32223523.html

Ukraine recap: battle of Soledar reveals a lot about the likely next phase of the war

Analysis: Wagner Group boss courts Putin with Ukrainian battlefield success

Will the Russia-Ukraine war last forever?
https://thewell.unc.edu/2023/01/13/will-the-russia-ukraine-war-last-forever/

Kremlin Worried About Ukrainian ‘Wedges’ Inside Russia

As War Against Ukraine Lengthens, Russia Shifts Top Brass
https://jamestown.org/program/as-war-against-ukraine-lengthens-russia-shifts-top-brass/

The Skyrocketing Costs for Russia’s War Effort
https://jamestown.org/program/russias-skyrocketing-costs-for-war-effort/

Analysis: Russia’s falling oil revenues could create vicious circle for budget, rouble

Behind the Lines: Ukrainian Currency Seized
https://cepa.org/article/behind-the-lines-ukrainian-currency-seized/

Western Oil Cap Helps Slash Russian Oil Revenues by $150bn
https://cepa.org/article/western-oil-cap-helps-slash-russian-oil-revenue/

Learn to Love Death, Russians Urged
https://cepa.org/article/learn-to-love-death-russians-urged/

Posturing or Mobilization? Belarus in 2023
https://cepa.org/article/posturing-or-mobilization-belarus-in-2023/

Big Bang Theory
https://cepa.org/article/wagner-victory-new-russian-civil-war-is-now-under-way/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Ukraine = Russia? Nyet
https://cepa.org/article/ukraine-russia-nyet/

Russia’s war in Ukraine sparked a historic food crisis. It’s not over

Failure to expand the allied sanctions coalition must be addressed

Russia-China Relations: Partnership of Convenience?
https://cepa.org/events/russia-china-relations-partnership-of-convenience/

How the War in Ukraine Could End Sooner Than Expected
https://www.rand.org/blog/2023/01/how-the-war-in-ukraine-could-end-sooner-than-expected.html

Mercenaries and massive troop call-ups won’t win Putin’s war

What Churchill and Selassie taught us about Aggression and Ukraine

Ukrainians Are Not Afraid of “Poking the Bear”
https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnlt/ukrains-are-not-afraid-poking-bear

Understanding Russia
https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/understanding-russia
HYBRID THREATS AND IRREGULAR WARFARE

The American Way of Irregular Warfare
M.T. Mitchell – Strategy Bridge: 17 January 2023

“The American Way of Irregular Warfare” is a memoir co-authored by retired Army Lt. Gen. Charles T. Cleveland with Daniel Egal that explores how the United States military has employed the concept of irregular warfare.

https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2023/01/19/the_americand_way_of_irregular_warfare_876549.html

Full article:

The American Way of Irregular War: An Analytical Memoir
https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PEA301-1.html

For more on this theme:

Ukraine says Russia is coordinating missile strikes, cyberattacks and information operations

The Fusion of Special and Cyber Forces Makes Sense

Japan’s Responses to Chinese Grey-Zone Tactics: Giving Southeast Asia A Leg-up
https://fulcrum.sg/japans-responses-to-chinese-grey-zone-tactics-giving-southeast-asia-a-leg-up/

How China’s maritime militia takes advantage of the grey zone

Russian grand strategy
https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2023-0009/

The Future of Cyber Warfare in the Indo-Pacific

Deepfakes and international conflict
https://www.brookings.edu/research/deepfakes-and-international-conflict/