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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Ukrainian recovery funding must be tied to anti-corruption
Josh Rudolph and Norman Eisen – Brookings: 24 October 2022
Incorporating anti-corruption into a “Modern Marshall Plan for Ukraine” calls for swift and extensive planning. The need for transparency, accountability and integrity is a critically important part of discussions about how to fund Ukrainian recovery.
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2022/10/24/ukrainian-recovery-funding-must-be-tied-to-anti-corruption/

US Official Blames Zimbabwe’s Economic Decline on Corruption, Not Sanctions
Columbus Mavhunga – Voice of America: 20 October 2022
Poor governance and corruption in Zimbabwe are responsible for the country’s economic decline, not U.S. and other Western sanctions imposed after reports of election rigging and human rights abuses, a top U.S. official said.

For more on this theme:
Explainer: The Impact of Martial Law on Ukrainian Corruption-Prevention Measures

Brothers Admit Killing Maltese Anti-Corruption Journalist

The Hungarian Anti-corruption Agency is Slowly Taking Shape
https://hungarytoday.hu/the-hungarian-anti-corruption-agency-is-slowly-taking-shape/

Myanmar court says Suu Kyi’s last corruption trial to go on

S.Africa’s Ramaphosa Vows To Crack Down On Corruption

Response to Corruption and Election Interference in Moldova

Montenegro must strengthen public trust in preventing and fighting corruption at the top executive level and in the police

Morocco king in new push to fight corruption
https://www.middle-east-online.com/en/morocco-king-new-push-fight-corruption
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Cocaine is flooding into Europe as drug market continues to evolve
Melissa Rossi – Yahoo News: 21 October 2022

Recent drug busts in Europe, largely made possible by advances in tapping criminals’ encrypted phones, underscore a new reality: More cocaine than ever is pouring into the continent, where South American chemists, traffickers and local mafias are helping to bring it to market.


What Lies Behind Bolivia’s Expanding Cocaine Trade?
Alessandro Ford – InSight Crime: 25 October 2022

The power of Brazilian gangs and local criminal groups, coupled with struggling government policies, has led to the steady rise of the cocaine trade.


For more on this theme:

Senators Warn of Vulnerabilities Allowing Drug Traffickers to Ship Illegal Narcotics

Colombia Sees Historic Levels of Coca Cultivation and Cocaine Production

Drug smuggling through darknet, cryptocurrencies increased: Shah

Captagon: Syria’s Most Valuable export?
https://greydynamics.com/captagon-syrias-most-valuable-export/

The growing danger of narco-states in the Andes

Over a quarter of cocaine seized in Latin American ports destined for Antwerp

Made In Tehran: Narcotics, Missiles And Killer Drones – OpEd

Drug-related crimes on the rise
https://www.khmer-timeskh.com/501173341/drug-related-crimes-on-the-rise/

Drug Crime Casts Long Shadow over Montenegrin Coast
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Follow the money: An intelligence agent's methods for busting wildlife traffickers
Manoush Zomorodi, Fiona Geiran and Sanaz Meshkinpour – NPR: 21 October 2022

Pangolins are shy, nocturnal creatures covered in scales. They’re also the most trafficked animal in the world. Intelligence expert Sarah Stoner explains how her team disrupts wildlife trafficking.

Inside South Africa’s Brutal Lion Bone Trade
Khadija Sharife – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 26 October 2022

In the world’s only commercial lion-farming industry, centered in South Africa’s Free State, animals are reared in terrible conditions so they can be slaughtered for their bones. Reporters tracked the supply chain all the way to Laos, where one of the world’s most notorious wildlife trafficking groups has been buying big cat skeletons.

For more on this theme:
Poaching surges in the birthplace of white rhino conservation

Amazon community steps in to protect a reserve the government won’t

Gold Mining Threatens ‘Forest Giraffe’ In DR Congo

How ‘Illegal’ Mining Activities Pollute Nigeria’s Sacred Osun River, Desecrate Goddess’ Grove, Endanger Lives Of Users

Bolivian gold miners push into national park despite country’s green rhetoric
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/19/bolivia-gold-miners-amazon-madidi

The Destruction of Venezuela’s Amazon Is Going Virtually Unnoticed

Europe’s energy crisis: Wood industry booms before winter of discontent

Destruction of the Amazon: What you need to know
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

How Does Geopolitics Shape Cross-Border Data Flows, And What is India’s Diplomatic Stance? #PrivacyNama2022
Aarathi Ganesan – Medianama: 17 October 2022
Panelists discuss global internet governance and how India’s stance on cross-border data flows may evolve.

For more on this theme:
(Global) DAOs need to neutralize whales (and more) if they want better governance

(Global) The Intimate and Interconnected History of the Internet
https://www.thenation.com/article/culture/the-history-of-the-internet/

(Global) Technology Ethics. How To Tame The Digital Beast.
https://www.forbes.com/sites/steveandriole/2022/10/19/technology-ethics--how-to-tame-the-digital-beast/?sh=b221e8254a

(Global) How Web3 internet design could lead to a more sustainable world
https://europeansting.com/2022/10/18/how-web3-internet-design-could-lead-to-a-more-sustainable-world/

INTERNET FREEDOM

Internet is shut down in Sudan on anniversary of military coup
Andrea Peterson – The Record: 25 October 2022
Online access in Sudan was disrupted as tens of thousands protested on the anniversary of a military coup that derailed a transition toward democratic governance.

For more on this theme:
(Uganda) New law in Uganda imposes restrictions on use of internet

(Turkey) Turkey: Dangerous, Dystopian New Legal Amendments
https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/10/14/turkey-dangerous-dystopian-new-legal-amendments

(Russia) Study: Russia Leads Worldwide Drop in Internet Freedom
CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

Social Media and Digital Diplomacy: A Conversation With Nick Clegg of Meta
Nick Clegg – Lawfare: 21 October 2022

A discussion on the role of Meta and social media in global politics, including its use as a platform for political movements, efforts to combat the spread of misinformation and measures in place to support international election security.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., South Korea) The Future of South Korea-US Cyber Cooperation
https://thediplomat.com/2022/10/the-future-of-south-korea-us-cyber-cooperation/

(Global) Time for Diplomacy to Better Engage with Technology

(Israel, Albania, Iran) Albania, Israel Discuss Cybersecurity After Iran Attack
https://www.voanews.com/a/albania-israel-discuss-cybersecurity-after-iran-attack/6802582.html

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Medibank confirms hacker had access to data of all 3.9 million customers

The data breach could cost the Australian health insurer millions.

For more on this theme:

(China, Global) Lessons from China’s Cyberattack Strategy Can Help CISOs Better Manage Threats, Report Says

(Australia) Credit card numbers, medical records leaked on dark web amid Australian Clinical Labs cyberattack

(Australia) Hive Ransomware Group Leaks Data Stolen in Tata Power Cyber-Attack
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

High time for Australia and India to step up their tech diplomacy
Arindrajit Basu, Baani Grewal and Bart Hogeveen – The Strategist: 21 October 2022

Emerging technologies such as AI now take geopolitical center stage, and therefore the global tug of war over their development, use and deployment is playing out at standard-setting organizations.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Data Incoming: How to Close the Cyber Data Gap

(Belgium) Belgian defence to set up Cyber Command

(Africa) Cybersecurity for inclusive digital transformation in Africa

(Global) Creating ‘Good’ Digital Public Infrastructure

CYBERCRIME

INTERPOL Launches First Global Police Metaverse
Homeland Security Today: 22 October 2022

In a live demonstration, experts delivered a training course on travel document verification and passenger screening using Interpol capabilities in a Metaverse classroom.


For more on this theme:

(U.K.) London’s New Cyber Resilience Centre Set to Fight Cybercrime in the Capital

(Global) Why are there so many data breaches? A growing industry of criminals is brokering in stolen data

(Global) Cyber-Enabled Crimes Are Biggest Police Concerns

(Global) Inside The Crypto Human Trafficking Rings In Myanmar, Cambodia & Laos
ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

ISIS fighters terrorize Mozambique, threaten gas supply amid Ukraine war
One of the Islamic State’s newest branches is fueling a brutal insurgency that has raged out of sight in small villages and remote forests since late 2017.

Islamic State regains momentum in Syria’s Kurdish areas
Sultan al-Kanj – Al-Monitor: 24 October 2022
The Islamic State group has renewed its activities in the areas under the control of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces.
https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/10/islamic-state-regains-momentum-syrias-kurdish-areas

For more on this theme:
Promises and Pitfalls of Tajikistan’s Latest Repatriation Program for Islamic State Families from Syria

ISWAP Expands into Ondo and Edo in Southern Nigeria
https://jamestown.org/program/briefs-374/

Maldives: the legacy of Islamic State
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/maldives-legacy-islamic-state

The story of a woman who joined ISIS
https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/isis-threat/article-720065

Afghan Militants Have China in Their Crosshairs
https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/10/19/afghan-militants-china-imperialism-islamic-state/?tpcc=recirc_trending062921

Mozambique jihadi violence spreads despite military effort
https://apnews.com/article/africa-mozambique-maputo-82de8a3cccb02f30080d7da44709cb82

Mali: Coordinated Massacres by Islamist Armed Groups
https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/10/27/mali-coordinated-massacres-islamist-armed-groups

Australian government to restore powers to strip citizenship from terrorism suspects

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Kidnapping for ransom on the rise in North Cameroon
Remadji Hoinathy and Agha-Nwi Fru – Institute for Security Studies: 26 October 2022
The double threat from Boko Haram and criminal gangs could further weaken the country’s security.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/kidnapping-for-ransom-on-the-rise-in-north-cameroon

For more on this theme:
Russia And Eurasia: Can The Region Sustain Its Declining Terrorism Trend?

Somalia: Lifting Arms Embargo Key to Battling Islamist Militants
https://www.voanews.com/a/somalia-lifting-arms-embargo-key-to-battling-islamist-militants/6785435.html

Careful balance needed to advance humanitarian action while countering terror
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/careful-balance-needed-to-advance-humanitarian-action-while-countering-terror

Gaza-Based Factions Claim to Have Presence in the West Bank

From farmers to fighters — how a new Somali militia has risen against al Shabaab

What Is a Terrorist Movement?
https://www.lawfareblog.com/what-terrorist-movement

Taliban rule is unstable, illegitimate and falling apart
https://asiatimes.com/2022/10/taliban-rule-is-unstable-illegitimate-and-falling-apart/

Jihadist fears cast shadow on Niger-Benin border

Conflict Remains the Dominant Driver of Africa’s Spiraling Food Crisis

Chibok kidnappings: why it’s important to listen to the survivors of Boko Haram terrorism

Pentagon says terror attacks in Africa increased 300% over last decade

Lebanon: New Strategic Base for Hamas
https://carnegieendowment.org/sada/88184
CONFLICT AND CRIME

Forging a Cooperative Relationship Between ICC and a Special Tribunal for Russian Aggression Against Ukraine

The proposal for a tribunal to prosecute those responsible for the military aggression against Ukraine has given rise to concern that it would compete with the International Criminal Court for resources, evidence, arrest warrants and defendants.


For more on this theme:

Talking Foreign Policy: Experts discuss prosecution of war crimes in Russia-Ukraine conflict

A New ‘Frontline’ Examines the Effort to Document andProsecute War Crimes in Ukraine
https://interactive.wttw.com/playlist/2022/10/21/frontline-putins-attack-ukraine-documenting-war-crimes

Myanmar military defends deadly air strike after accusations of war crime

‘Kill everyone’: Russian violence in Ukraine was strategic

Law not War: A Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression
https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1q/k1qyewjw26

Ukraine: Investigating War Damages
https://iwpr.net/global-voices/ukraine-investigating-war-damages

A 26-year-old Ukrainian woman described being tortured with electric shocks and hammers while held in Russian captivity for 6 months: ‘They treated us like animals’

Using Adoptions, Russia Turns Ukrainian Children Into Spoils of War

Ukraine Symposium – Dirty Bombs and International Humanitarian Law
https://lieber.westpoint.edu/dirty-bombs-international-humanitarian-law/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Russia may prefer sabotage of critical infrastructure over nuclear weapons
Constanze Stelzenmüller – Brookings: 20 October 2022
Deliberate acts of sabotage on critical infrastructure offer a more effective tool for Russian President Vladimir Putin to disrupt Western resolve than his repeated nuclear threats.
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/10/20/russia-may-prefer-sabotage-of-critical-infrastructure-over-nuclear-weapons/

For more on this theme:
Can Iranian Drones Turn Russia’s Fortunes in the Ukraine War?
https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/can-iranian-drones-turn-russias-fortunes-ukraine-war
Win, Lose, or Draw, the Wagner Group Benefits From the War in Ukraine
https://www.lawfareblog.com/win-lose-or-draw-wagner-group-benefits-war-ukraine
Russia Recruiting Former Afghan Commandos for Ukraine: Report
Takeaways from investigation of Russian general in Ukraine
West and Russia clash over UN probe of drone use in Ukraine
https://apnews.com/article/iran-middle-east-business-europe-united-nations-c2519fba388615c16b-c0842f303d41bb
Inside the hospitals that concealed Russian casualties
How to Keep Belarus Out of Russia’s War on Ukraine
https://www.nationalreview.com/2022/10/how-to-keep-belarus-out-of-russias-war-on-ukraine/
Despite Modernization Drive, Russia’s Air Force Struggles for Superiority in Ukraine
How Water Has Been Weaponised In The Russia-Ukraine War
https://kashmirobserver.net/2022/10/22/how-water-has-been-weaponised-in-the-russia-ukraine-war/
Russians avoiding conscription long for home but refuse to fight in Ukraine
A New Cold War Is Heating Up the Arctic
https://www.miningweekly.com/article/a-new-cold-war-is-heating-up-the-arctic-2022-10-21
War in Ukraine has widened a global divide in public attitudes toward US, China and Russia
https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/worlddivided
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Why did Central America shift UN votes on Russia-Ukraine war?

The private jet that took 100 Russians away from Putin’s war

Here’s likely reason why Vladimir Putin imposed martial law in Ukraine: Analysis

What's Behind Russia's New Deployment of Troops to Belarus?
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88249

The Larger Geopolitical Shift Behind Iran's Drone Sales to Russia
https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/10/26/larger-geopolitical-shift-behind-iran-s-drone-sales-to-russia-pub-88268

Judy Asks: Is European Support for Ukraine Dependent on the United States?
https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/88273

Germany's Continued Illusions About China and Russia
https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/88210

Nuclear injustice: How Russia’s invasion of Ukraine shows the staggering human cost of deterrence

Europe must make this the last winter of weaponized Russian energy exports
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/putin-weapons-winter-europe-must-end-its-dependency-on-russian-energy/

The ambition is there to rebuild Ukraine. Here’s how to make it work.
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/the-ambition-is-there-to-rebuild-ukraine-heres-how-to-make-it-work/

Russia's Ukraine Disaster Exposes China's Military Weakness
https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/10/24/russias-ukraine-disaster-exposes-chinas-military-weakness/

A Western Strategy for Ukraine: Part 3
https://cepa.org/article/a-western-strategy-for-ukraine-part-3/

Dirty Bomb — What's Russia's Game?
https://cepa.org/article/dirty-bomb-whats-russias-game/

The Power of Stigma
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/russian-federation/power-stigma-shaming-russia-elites-weaken-putin
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Putin’s nuclear threats to Ukraine could easily spiral out of control**

**Regime-Change Attempts in Moldova: Russophile, Leftist and Oligarchic**

**As Putin’s War Disrupts Eurasian Railways, China Investigates Alternatives**
https://jamestown.org/program/as-putins-war-disrupts-eurasian-railways-china-investigates-alternatives/

**Abkhazia Rejects Putin’s Mobilization**
https://jamestown.org/program/abkhazia-rejects-putins-mobilization/