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 Statecraft and Strategy
  Cyber Attacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
  Cybercrime
  Critical Infrastructure Protection

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
  ISIS and Foreign Fighters
  Terrorism Around the World
  Russia/Ukraine
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

China central bank official faces corruption probe
Deutsche Welle: 5 November 2022
Fan Yifei is among hundreds of officials who are being investigated for corruption under a crackdown by President Xi Jinping.

Guinea junta seeks to prosecute ex-president Conde for alleged corruption
Reuters: 4 November 2022
Guinea’s rulers ordered prosecutors to take legal action against Alpha Conde, who was overthrown in a 2021 coup, and more than 180 others.

For more on this theme:

Sudani Kicks Off Duties as Iraq PM with Fight Against Corruption

Let’s fight corruption to ward off violent extremist groups
https://www.businessghana.com/site/news/general/273424/Let-s-fight-corruption-to-ward-off-violent-extremist-groups

Cambodian corruption opens door for cyber slavery

Malaysia’s Upcoming Polls Hinge on Corruption
https://www.asiasentinel.com/p/malaysia-polls-hinge-corruption

Prosecution reforms sharpen SA’s anti-corruption drive
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/prosecution-reforms-sharpen-sas-anti-corruption-drive

In Syria, facing cholera and corruption

Will Iraq’s new anti-corruption campaign succeed?

Mexico’s organized corruption scourge
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/mexico-organized-corruption/

Corruption: The Common Source of Environmental Crime in the Amazon

Jordan launches witness protection program for corruption cases
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2195646/middle-east
DRUG TRAFFICKING

As gangs battle over Peru's drug trafficking routes, communities and forest are at risk
Michelle Carrere – Mongabay: 8 November 2022

Along the Peruvian and Colombian border, armed gangs are seeking control of the Putumayo River. It is the site of two important trafficking routes: one to Brazil that goes on to Europe and Asia, and the other to Mexico and the United States.


Ecuador’s High Tide of Drug Violence
International Crisis Group: 4 November 2022

Ecuador’s proximity to major cocaine producers, dollarized economy and corruptible state institutions, as well as COVID-19’s devastating impact, have turned the country into Latin America’s latest hotbed of drug trafficking and violent crime.


For more on this theme:

Drug, drones and death: Inside Punjab’s tragic stories of addiction

Newly Formed HSI-Led Fentanyl Abatement, Suppression Team Nets First Prosecution

In Sinaloa, Mexico, a Deadly Mix of Synthetic Drugs and Forced Disappearances

Is the Quality of Cocaine Worse in the United States than in Europe?

Treasury Sanctions Corrupt Haitian Politicians for Narcotics Trafficking

Treasury Sanctions Internet-based Suppliers of Illicit Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Drugs

Drug trafficking: Reactions trail release of certified US court documents indicting Tinubu

Blockchain technology to be used to fight drug trafficking
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Beneath The Surface of Illegal Gold Mining in the Amazon
Katie Jones, Javier Lizcano and Maria Fernanda Ramirez – InSight Crime: 8 November 2022

As gold prices skyrocket, a boom in mining across the Amazon Basin has flourished, leaving a deep environmental footprint. Illegal mining has become one of the main drivers of deforestation, above all in Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname. Though it contributes to forest loss in Bolivia and Ecuador as well, it is not the main driver.

https://insightcrime.org/investigations/beneath-surface-illegal-gold-mining-amazon/

Shady contracts, backdoor deals spur illegal gold mining in Bolivian Amazon
Maxwell Radwin – Mongabay: 8 November 2022

In the northern regions of the department of La Paz, illegal gold mining has led to widespread deforestation and mercury pollution.


For more on this theme:

Conservationists are using artificial intelligence to map out the best ways for saving threatened wildlife and resources

Ugandan Ivory Trader Gets a Life Sentence in a Landmark Ruling

Tracking Social Media To Uncover Ivory Trafficking In Rwanda

China’s illegal gold mining in Ghana adversely impacting its environment

New US strategy for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

How Illegal Logging Became National Security Crisis in Chile

Exclusive: Shark finning rampant across Chinese tuna firm’s fleet

Wildlife Experts: Rhino Horn Trafficking is on the Rise Worldwide

Fishing for Security: Taking on Illegal Fishing in Latin America

Ghana’s illegal mining continues because the rules and reality are disconnected
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Do we need a new generation of Human Rights for cyberspace?
Wolfgang Kleinwächter – Observer Research Foundation: 26 October 2022
Does the extension of cyberspace create the need or is it primarily an academic exercise?

For more on this theme:
(Global) The international politics of data: When control trumps protection
https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-international-politics-of-data/
(Global) The Metaverse Needs To Have A Role In Your Strategy: Here Is How
https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbescommunicationscouncil/2022/11/01/the-metaverse-needs-to-have-a-role-in-your-strategy-here-is-how/?sh=49d2a0254559

INTERNET FREEDOM

How China Boosts Iran’s Digital Crackdown
Nima Khorrami – The Diplomat: 27 October 2022
Amid ongoing protests, Iran is looking to accelerate its adoption of Beijing’s AI surveillance and internet censorship.

For more on this theme:
(South Africa) South Africa’s ‘internet censorship’ laws are now in full effect — and legal notices are going out
(China) In Xi’s China, even internal reports fall prey to censorship
(Iran) How Iranians are hopping between VPNs to stay connected and break through internet censorship
(Turkey) Talking Turkey: Ankara Punishes Online Dissent
https://cepa.org/article/talking-turkey-ankara-punishes-online-dissent/
CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

How Australia plans to triple its offensive cyber capabilities
Nigel Pittaway – C4ISRNET: 7 November 2022

“Australia has been targeted by a range of actors conducting cyber operations that pose a significant threat to our security,” Rachel Noble wrote in a document outlining Redspice, the government’s plan to bolster its cyber capabilities.


For more on this theme:

(India) India and Cyber Power: The Imperative of Offensive Cyber Operations
https://www.orfonline.org/research/india-and-cyber-power/

(U.S.) CISA Looks to Future With First-Ever Strategic Plan

(Palestinian Territories) Palestine’s Hamas moves online: researchers warn of cyber terrorism

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Cyberattack Causes Trains to Stop in Denmark
Eduard Kovacs – Security Week: 4 November 2022

The incident shows how an attack on a third-party IT provider could result in significant disruption in the physical world.

https://www.securityweek.com/cyberattack-causes-trains-stop-denmark

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Mississippi Hit With Cyberattack After Russian Hackers Call for Strike

(Chile) World’s Most Expensive Observatory Floored by Cyber-Attack

(Vanatu) Vanuatu Government Sites Down, Cyberattack Feared
https://www.barrons.com/articles/vanuatu-government-sites-down-cyberattack-feared-01667984106

(Mexico) Borderlands: Cyberattack disrupts Mexico’s transportation system
CYBERCRIME

Digital Hezbollah and Political Warfare in Cyberspace
Pierre Pahlavi – The National Interest: 31 October 2022

Over the past decade, Hezbollah has developed into one of the main global players in online influence.

For more on this theme:
(China) With All Eyes on Russia, China Continues to Strike
https://securityboulevard.com/2022/10/with-all-eyes-on-russia-china-continues-to-strike/

(Global) What Is Cybercrime?
https://www.usnews.com/360-reviews/privacy/what-is-cybercrime

(Global) White House convenes dozens of countries to fight ransomware

(Australia) Australia sees spike in cyber attacks from criminals and states

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Biden now wants to toughen up chemical sector’s cybersecurity
Jeff Burt – The Register: 27 October 2022

The White House is adding the chemical sector to a program launched last year to improve cybersecurity capabilities within United States’ critical infrastructure industries.
https://www.theregister.com/2022/10/27/biden_chemical_cybersecurity_sprint/

For more on this theme:
(GLOBAL) Cybersecurity in the energy industry: Why working together across the value chain is vital for resilience

(U.S.) DHS Announces New Cybersecurity Performance Goals for Critical Infrastructure

(U.S.) National Guard provides critical cybersecurity for midterm elections
https://www.army.mil/article/261806/national_guard_provides_critical_cybersecurity_for_midterm_elections

(Global) Nation-State Cyber Attacks Against Critical Infrastructure Doubled in the Past 12 Months
**PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)**

**ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS**

**Risks and responses repatriating foreign terrorist fighters and families**
Khalid Koser Lilla Schumicky-Logan – The Interpreter: 4 November 2022

Australia is bringing home families that lived under the rule of the Islamic State group, and experience overseas offers valuable lessons.

**Sanctioning ISIS Members in South Africa**
U.S. Department of State: 7 November 2022

The United States designated as terrorists four members of an Islamic State group cell who have provided technical, financial or material support to the terrorist organization, as well as eight companies owned, controlled or directed by the cell.

For more on this theme:

**Repatriated IS women should be accountable to the state they left behind**
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/repatriated-women-should-be-accountable-state-they-left-behind

**Women, kids detained in ISIS camps should be repatriated to Canada quickly: expert**

**Nigeria kills two top Islamic State officials in a bombing in the Lake Chad Basin**

**Foreigners repatriated from Syrian Islamic State camps reach record high**
https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-721757

**Uganda Says Airforce Destroyed Islamic State-Linked Rebel Camp**

**Iraq suspends repatriations from Syria's notorious Islamic State camp al-Hol**

**The Kerala Story Brings Focus On Indian Women In ISIS Ranks**
https://newindian.in/the-kerala-story-brings-focus-on-indian-women-in-isis-ranks/

**Group warns of rampant violence in Syria camp of IS families**
https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-middle-east-syria-violence-terrorism-d87b6a2844a9a4686b153498c061db1f
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Taliban is reaching your living rooms, and YouTubers are helping
Kabir Taneja – Observer Research Foundation: 9 November 2022

After maximizing its reach on Twitter, the Taliban now has YouTubers to push its narrative.
https://www.orfonline.org/research/taliban-is-reaching-your-living-rooms/

For more on this theme:

Hezbollah chief says armed group’s mobilization to end

Back to the Past: How Taliban Rule Has Wiped Out Afghanistan’s Gains and Provided Haven for Terrorists

Taliban Rule in Afghanistan Renews Fears of Al-Qaeda Resurgence

MWI Podcast: What Kind of Leader Will Al-Qaeda Choose Next?
https://mwi.usma.edu/mwi-podcast-what-kind-of-leader-will-al-qaeda-choose-next/

Somalia: Is ‘arming the clans’ really enough to defeat Al-Shabaab?
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/opinion/somalia-arming-clans-enough-defeat-al-shabaab

Russia-Taliban in a desperate partnership of convenience

Taliban Escalate New Abuses Against Afghan Women, Girls
https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/10/taliban-escalate-new-abuses-against-afghan-women-girls

Afghanistan: Taliban uses Hamas meeting to send a message to the Muslim world
https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/afghanistan-taliban-hamas-meeting-send-message-muslim-world

The Continuing Threat of Extremist Islam in Southeast Asia

Jihadism and military takeovers in West Africa: Burkina Faso coup highlights the links

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RUSSIA/UKRAINE

In the Months Since Russia's Brutal Invasion of Ukraine, Its Trade With China Has Surged.
Mark Green – The Wilson Center: 8 November 2022

Close economic ties between Russia and China aren’t new. Despite Putin’s claims that Western penalties have had little impact, evidence suggests otherwise. But many other countries have chosen not to join the sanctions, and some seem to view the invasion as a business opportunity.

https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/months-russias-brutal-invasion-ukraine-its-trade-china-has-surged

For more on this theme:
Public Opinion in Russia: What Do We Know, What Can We Know?

Russia's War in Ukraine Shifts Dynamics in the Israel-Iran-Azerbaijan Triangle
https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/russias-war-ukraine-shifts-dynamics-israel-iran-azerbaijan-triangle

Iran Arms Russia in the War in Ukraine

An International Post-War Security Force is Needed in Ukraine
https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/international-post-war-security-force-needed-ukraine

Can Russia's War in Ukraine End Without Nuclear Weapons?
https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/11/03/can-russia-s-war-in-ukraine-end-without-nuclear-weapons-pub-88321

Russia's Return to Grain Deal Is a Sign of Turkey's Growing Influence
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88349

They Talk the Talk, But Do Russia's Hawks Have Any Real Influence?
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88334

Comrades-in-Sanctions: Can Iran Help Russia Weather the Economic Storm?
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88318

Evaluating the International Support to Ukrainian Cyber Defense
https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/11/03/evaluating-international-support-to-ukrainian-cyber-defense-pub-88322

We can't keep treating talk of negotiations to end the Ukraine war as off limits
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/nov/03/ukraine-russia-war-negotiated-settlement

The Importance of Being Russian: Can Belarus Survive the Kremlin’s War Against Ukraine?
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88317
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

6 ways Russia's invasion of Ukraine has reshaped the energy world

The Ukraine war is deepening Russia's ties with North Korea as well as Iran
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/nov/07/russia-ukraine-war-iran-north-korea-arms-ties

Ukrainians advance, front falls silent after Russia orders retreat

Russian mercenary force Wagner opens first official headquarters

Russia Open to Negotiations With Ukraine, Factoring In New Realities

Ukraine: Russia’s unlawful transfer of civilians a war crime and likely a crime against humanity — new report

Is Erdogan the Winner of the Russia-Ukraine War?
https://nationalinterest.org/feature/erdogan-winner-russia-ukraine-war-205754

Russia hopes a winter wave of Ukrainian refugees will divide Europe
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/russia-hopes-a-winter-wave-of-ukrainian-refugees-will-divide-europe/

NATO, Nazis, Satanists: Putin is running out of excuses for his imperial war

The international community must prepare for a post-Putin Russia
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/the-international-community-must-prepare-for-a-post-putin-russia/

Iranian Drones Are Changing the Battlefields of Eurasia
https://jamestown.org/program/iranian-drones-are-changing-the-battlefields-of-eurasia/

Russia’s Position in Central Asia Continues to Slip
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Moscow Actively Conscripting Central Asian Migrant Workers for War Effort
https://jamestown.org/program/moscow-actively-conscripting-central-asian-migrant-workers-for-war-effort/

Iran Expanding Its Influence in the Muslim Regions of Russia

Is Mobilization Really Over in Russia?
https://jamestown.org/program/is-mobilization-really-over-in-russia/

Ukraine war: Serbia is shifting closer to Russia — here’s why
https://theconversation.com/ukraine-war-serbia-is-shifting-closer-to-russia-heres-why-192472

The U.N. (as We Know It) Won’t Survive Russia’s War in Ukraine

Ukraine recap: Russia’s ‘modern siege tactics’ fail to break the people’s will to resist

Ukrainians try to rebuild what Russia destroyed

Ukraine’s Africa Visit Shows Its Fight Against Russia Goes Beyond the Battlefield

In Moldova, Russia Wages Another Hybrid War

Russia ‘wants to put Ukrainians into darkness’

Talks with Russia? No way, say Ukrainians

Heroic Arts: The Remarkable Story of Ukrainian Artists Confronting Russia

The Russia-Ukraine Crisis and its Repercussions on Germany

As More Russians Flee Over Putin’s War On Ukraine, Other Countries Are Reaping The Economic Benefits
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

How Kyiv copes with blackouts

‘I Didn't Think I'd Survive': Russian Volunteer Soldier Who Quit Ukraine War Recalls His Ordeal
https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-soldiers-quit-ukraine-war/32122204.html

Russia Mulls Doubling Draft Service Amid Ukraine Setbacks
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/russia-mulls-doubling-draft-service-amid-ukraine-setbacks-205728

Ukraine's motivational messaging maintains morale as winter bites
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/nov/06/ukraine-motivational-messaging-maintains-morale-as-winter-bites

UK Reports Dismissals of Russian Commanders Since Ukraine Invasion

Financing and governing the recovery, reconstruction, and modernization of Ukraine

Ukrainian Winter: More Setbacks For Russia? – Analysis
https://www.eurasiareview.com/05112022-ukrainian-winter-more-setbacks-for-russia-analysis/

Where Is The Clamor For Getting Russia And Ukraine Off The Ramp? – Analysis

Grouping Of Russian Units In Belarus Continues To Swell – Analysis

War of Words
https://cepa.org/article/war-of-words/

Russia's Aggression Justifies Western Cyber Intervention
https://cepa.org/article/russias-aggression-justifies-western-cyber-intervention/

Putin Weaponizes Winter
https://cepa.org/article/putin-weaponizes-winter/

Russia's Costly War Saps its Regions
https://cepa.org/article/russias-costly-war-saps-its-regions/

Putin's Chef Turns Handyman
https://cepa.org/article/putins-chef-turns-handymen/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia Fears Return of a Criminal Army
https://cepa.org/article/russia-fears-the-return-of-a-criminal-army/

Putin Will Think Twice Before Nuking Ukraine
https://nationalinterest.org/feature/putin-will-think-twice-nuking-ukraine-205723

Charting the extent of Iran’s arms proliferation

US and Russia agree to hold talks on nuclear treaty for first time since Ukraine war began

The War in Ukraine Could Bring Crisis to Uzbekistan

Russia Should Be Scared: Putin Drafted 318,000 Soldiers for Ukraine War