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CORRUPTION

Political Corruption Enters a New Golden Age
David A. Graham – The Atlantic: 16 November 2017

With two recent high-profile corruption cases ending in mistrial in the U.S., it seems like some government leaders are enjoying relative impunity. Even when officials are caught, justice may not be served. And the U.S. is not the only country with this problem.


Beware of the corrupt anti-corruption campaign
Clay R. Fuller – American Enterprise Institute: 9 November 2017

The author argues that the anti-corruption campaigns in China and Saudi Arabia are themselves corrupt.


For more on this theme:

Top judge quits EU Kosovo mission, alleging corruption

Ukraine’s anti-corruption bureau launches case against sister agency

Collapsed state housing in Iranian quake shows corruption: Rouhani

Ecuador’s Vice-President Glas to face corruption trial

Corruption Purge Overshadows Stalled Reality of Saudi Economy

Corruption in Israel is not just an Israeli issue

China faces historic corruption battle, ruling party’s new graft buster says

Fifa corruption trial hears allegations officials took millions in bribes
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Afghan Opium Production Increases by 87 Percent
Ayaz Gul – Voice of America: 15 November 2017

Afghanistan’s opium cultivation and production both hit record levels in 2017, despite an increase in opium eradication by the government. The Taliban has also expanded its role in narcotics, drawing a larger portion of its revenue from the drug trade.


Costa Rica, One of the World’s Happiest Countries, Is Part of a Cocaine Trade Heading to the U.S.
Robert Valencia – Newsweek: 16 November 2017

An extensive investigation by La Nación shows the growing role Costa Rica plays in the transit of South American cocaine heading to the United States, Europe and other markets.


For more on this theme:

Why Iran Quietly Abolished Death Penalty For Some Drug Crimes

Colombia’s president insists: war on drugs has failed
https://colombiareports.com/colombias-president-insists-war-drugs-failed/

Legalizing pot won't curb illegal drug trade, Winnipeg police inspector says

Mexican traffickers making New York a hub for lucrative — and deadly — fentanyl

ASEAN leaders reaffirm commitment to drug-free community

The War On Drugs Repackaged
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-war-on-drugs-repackaged_us_5a04dee6e4b05673aa584d1e

The Deadly Cost Of Duterte’s War On Drugs
https://www.npr.org/2017/11/12/563606297/the-deadly-cost-of-dutertes-war-on-drugs

Some opioid addiction drugs harder to start than others, study finds

Mexico drug cartel’s grip on politicians and police revealed in Texas court files

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TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Using technology to save the oceans: new tool to detect illegal fishing
TRAFFIC: 15 November 2017
The nongovernmental organization TRAFFIC, the World Wildlife Fund and the Hewlett Packard Enterprise technology company have developed a new tool to address illegal fishing. DETECT-IT helps authorities search trade data to identify illegal fish products around the world.

The modern gold rush that's destroying the Amazon
Bill Weir – CNN: 13 November 2017
The high price of gold in 2009 brought illegal miners by the hundreds to the pristine jungles of the Amazon in Peru. The mining process, which uses mercury, poisons and destroys the ecosystem.

For more on this theme:
Videos detail corruption in massive illegal Peruvian timber case

Production timings could stem illegal wildlife laundering

Trophies from elephant hunts in Zimbabwe were banned in the U.S. Trump just reversed that.

Smuggled, beaten and drugged: The illicit global ape trade

Can farming rhinos for their horns save the species?

Madagascar petitions CITES to sell millions in stolen rosewood

Tree rings used to counter smugglers’ rings

How I tackled illegal wood export and deforestation – Amina Mohammed

Scientists analyze wood DNA to determine tree location
https://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/wood/panel-supply/scientists-analyze-wood-dna-determine-tree-location
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

What is it like to be a child trafficking victim in India? An online game will put you in her shoes
Maria Thomas – Quartz: 17 November 2017
Nobel Prize-winning activist Kailash Satyarthi created the online game “(UN)TRAFFICKED” to put users in the shoes of human trafficking victims.

People for sale: Where lives are auctioned for $400
Nima Elbagir, Raja Razek, Alex Platt and Bryony Jones – CNN: November 2017
CNN broadcast disturbing footage of a slave auction near Tripoli, Libya. The men being sold by an auctioneer were apparently from Sub-Saharan Africa, including the Sahel and Nigeria, and were trying to migrate to Europe.

For more on this theme:
Give displaced Rohingya jobs to prevent human trafficking, companies told

Leveraging Data Prep to Prevent Human Trafficking

Almost ‘every popular social media site’ being used to recruit sex trafficking victims, FBI says

Erasing modern slavery is a slow process, but it catches on in Australia
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/nov/17/erasing-modern-slavery-is-a-slow-process-but-it-catches-on-in-australia

Moldova Eyes Blockchain IDs to Help Curb Child Trafficking

Traffickers lure vulnerable children in UK care with ‘web of lies’

Trafficking victims ‘being wrongly sent to immigration detention centres’

Is the EU putting African migrants at risk?
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The quiet battle for control of the internet
Will Wright – Open Democracy: 15 November 2017

Governments that promote cyber sovereignty are trying to expand their influence on the global stage, hoping to persuade international bodies to embrace their concept of internet governance.

https://www.opendemocracy.net/digitaliberties/will-wright/quiet-battle-for-control-of-internet

For more on this theme:

(Global) Policy Architecture and Internet Freedom

(Europe, Global) Kaspersky Lab, Council of Europe promote secure and safe Internet

(Global) Microsoft president says the world needs a digital Geneva Convention
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2017/11/10/microsoft_president_calls_for_digital_geneva_convention/

INTERNET FREEDOM

Here’s how we can protect Africa’s internet freedom
Alex Humphrey and Kizito Byenkya – World Economic Forum: 10 November 2017

Regardless of how governments go about it, barring public gatherings or shutting down the internet are designed to assert authority and strip citizens of their rights.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Internet freedom ‘in decline’ for seventh consecutive year

(China) China cyber watchdog rejects censorship critics, says internet must be ‘orderly’

(Cambodia) Cambodian Netizens Face New Risks as Government Tightens Online Controls
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Cyber security predictions for 2018
Nick Ismail – Information Age: 15 November 2017

Mike McKee, CEO of insider-threat management company ObserveIT, makes some predictions about cyber security in 2018.

For more on this theme:
(Iran) Iran’s Requirement for Internet Users to Verify Their Identity Would Further Erode Privacy Rights

(Latin America) Freedom Of Expression – Paper Looks At ‘Right To Be Forgotten’ In Latin American Context

(U.S.) The NSA Should Delete Its Trove of Data on Americans

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Bill Creating Cyber Ambassador Passes Committee
Kate DeNardi – MeriTalk: 16 November 2017

The Cyber Diplomacy Act, which would establish a cyber ambassador under the U.S. State Department, made its way past a congressional committee to be voted on by Congress in the near future.
https://www.meritalk.com/articles/bill-creating-cyber-ambassador-passes-committee/

For more on this theme:
(India) India keen to promote cyber diplomacy: RS Prasad

(EU) New EU cybersecurity centres slated to research encryption

(India, China, U.S.) India, China, US agree to cooperate more on cyberspace security
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Push for public, private sector cybersecurity cooperation continues
Ben Cole – TechTarget: 16 November 2017

High-profile cyber attacks may be the impetus that pushes industry and government into stronger cooperative relationships.

http://searchcio.techtarget.com/news/450430233/Push-for-public-private-sector-cybersecurity-cooperation-continues

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Funding, fiber, cyber: A recipe for smarter cities

(U.S.) A Blessing and a Curse: The Politics of Cybersecurity in the Age of Technological Innovation

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Foiling Cyberspies on Business Trips

When traveling overseas employees are putting their company’s intellectual property at risk if they don’t follow rigorous security protocols.


For more on this theme:

(India) Going after the big fish - IP Enforcement
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Companies Turn to War Games to Spot Scarce Cybersecurity Talent
Jeremy Kahn – Bloomberg: 15 November 2017

War-gaming competitions across the globe are helping to identify and recruit individuals with cyber security expertise.


For more on this theme:
(Rwanda) Stakeholders chart ways to accelerate broadband rollout
http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/read/223769/

(Pakistan) Campaign Snapshot: Pakistan’s First Cyber Harassment Helpline
https://www.ifex.org/digital_rights/2017/11/16/cyberharass_helpline/

(U.S.) Research confirms the cybersecurity skills shortage is an existential threat

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Cybercrime, America’s newest number one fear
Sam Brake Guia – The Sociable: 13 November 2017

A new report from Gallup News indicates that Americans are more fearful of internet crimes than anything else.

https://sociable.co/web/cybercrime-fear/

For more on this theme:
(Turkey) Turkey to run national cyber-security drill

(Global) Security software specialist Symantec warns of AI-enabled cyber crimes

(U.S.) New Blockchain Platforms Emerge To Fight Cybercrime & Secure The Future
INFORMATION SHARING

New centre to combat cybercrime with shared information from institutions in 9 countries
Brandon Tanoto – Channel NewsAsia: 14 November 2017

A new center in Singapore is focused on combating cyber crime by sharing information among financial institutions in nine countries.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) How to fix information sharing, according to industry

(U.S., North Korea) DHS, FBI release joint technical alerts on malicious cyber activity by North Korea

(Europe) Nordic states deepen cyber defence collaboration

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Europe not ready for imminent cyber strikes, say infosec professionals
Warwick Ashford – Computer Weekly: 16 November 2017

Nearly 80 percent of Europe’s information security leaders predict widespread breaches in the next two years — and they don’t feel prepared, even with recent government initiatives.


For more on this theme:

(GLOBAL) Protecting oil and gas critical infrastructure against cyber threats

(AUSTRALIA) Cyber security threat: Is Australia’s power grid safe from hackers?

(ISRAEL) Civil Aviation Cyber Security Put to Test
https://i-hls.com/archives/79725
ISIS

**ISIS Might Have One Last Escape Route: Pakistan**
Kunwar Khuldune Shahid – The Diplomat: 7 November 2017

As ISIS loses ground in Syria and Iraq, the leaderless factions of the Taliban in Pakistan may hold the most promise for a resurgence.


**Why Africa Could Provide an ‘ISIS Renaissance’**
Antonia Ward – Scout: 15 November 2017

While returning foreign fighters and ISIS-inspired attackers pose the most direct threat to the West, the possibility that ISIS may rebuild in Africa is cause for concern.


For more on this theme:

- **The Islamic State is more like a street gang than like other terrorist groups**

- **Territorial Destruction of the Islamic State Will Not End Ongoing Threat, Says New Report from Jane’s by IHS Markit**

- **The Collapse of the Islamic State: What Comes Next?**

- **Islamic State group changing strategy, French defence minister tells FRANCE 24**

- **Islamic State group could be a ‘significant threat’ in Somalia**

- **Islamic State attacks in Aden indicate resurgence of capability to target security forces in southern Yemen**

- **IS May Sustain Virtual Caliphate After Battlefield Losses, Experts Say**

- **It’s not just territory. ISIS is losing ground online too.**
  http://kazu.org/post/its-not-just-territory-isis-losing-ground-online-too#stream/0
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al-Qaeda’s revised recruitment strategy for India: Go vernacular, reach larger audience
*Times Now: 17 November 2017*

In an organized campaign by al-Qaida to use the internet to recruit support across India, the group has begun online distribution of Tamil, Bengali and Hindi translations of key jihadist texts.


**Jund al-Islam: New contender to ISIS Sinai militants?**
*Daily News Egypt: 14 November 2017*

A little-known militant group called Jund al-Islam, inspired by al-Qaida ideology, declared that it carried out a military attack against the Islamic State’s Egyptian branch, Sinai Province, describing the group as “Kharijites,” or apostates.


For more on this theme:

**Africa’s Sahel region ‘sinking into chaos’ as terror spreads**

**Predicting the Failure of ISIS**

**Islamic Jihad raises state of readiness to ‘highest level’**

**Al-Qaeda Has Rebuilt Itself — With Iran’s Help**

**US military targets al Qaeda’s branch in Somalia**

**The Taliban is using night-vision goggles to mount a wave of deadly attacks in Afghanistan**

**Taliban makes a comeback in Pakistan’s tribal areas**
https://theprint.in/2017/11/17/taliban-makes-comeback-pakistans-tribal-areas/

**Nigeria remains third most terrorised country as Boko Haram killings reduce 80%**
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Google broadens takedown of extremist YouTube videos
Paresh Dave – Reuters: 13 November 2017

YouTube says it has stepped up efforts to flag terrorism-related videos, amplify voices speaking out against terrorism, and expand its work with “counter-extremist groups to help identify content that may be being used to radicalize.”

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-tech-hatespeech/google-broadens-takedown-of-extremist-you-tube-videos-idUSKBN1DE0SX

New software can pinpoint hate groups’ radicalization sites
Claire Hall – Phys.org: 15 November 2017

The manifestos of terrorists are a gold mine of information. Using such texts, a professor created software that can help identify websites that espouse extremist views.


For more on this theme:

European Council chief worried over radicalization in Asia-Pacific

Muslim activists hack Isis mailing list hours after terrorists claimed it was unhackable

The digital war against Isis is being lost. What should be done?

Climate Change and Water Woes Drove ISIS Recruiting in Iraq

Syria is sending ISIS militants to ‘terrorist rehab’
https://nypost.com/2017/11/14/syria-is-sending-isis-militants-to-terrorist-rehab/

Central Asia Is Not a Breeding Ground for Radicalization

How Extremists Groups Radicalize Recruits Online

The Role of Young People in Preventing Violent Extremism in The Lake Chad Basin
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

UN chief calls on states to prosecute foreign fighters, not kill them
Areeb Ullah – Middle East Eye: 16 November 2017

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for governments to prosecute foreign fighters who return home instead of killing them. “I think those citizens, whether they are British citizens or Portuguese citizens, should be allowed to come back and should be prosecuted according to the law based on the crimes that they have committed,” he said.

http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/UN-Chief-calls-on-governments-to-prosecute-foreign-fighters-not-kill-them-306231056

For more on this theme:

Threat of Jihadist Exodus Spurs Security Crackdown in Turkey

While Western nations mark their ISIS fighters for death, Canada offers ‘reintegration support’

Theresa May promises ‘steps to deal with foreign fighters returning to UK after IS defeat’
http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/uk-news/theresa-promises-steps-deal-foreign-13901383

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Rein in Isis and terrorism coverage, police chiefs tell media

Mark Rowley, the head of the United Kingdom’s national counterterrorism policing, told a Society of Editors conference in Cambridge that news coverage of terrorism can influence some people to radicalize.


For more on this theme:

The Next Wave of AUMF Expansion? The Islamic State’s Global Affiliates
https://lawfareblog.com/next-wave-aumf-expansion-islamic-states-global-affiliates

ASEAN highlights need to reintegrate radicals to counter terrorism

Commentary: America Is Great at Fighting Terrorism, but Terror Is Alive and Well