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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Mexico’s new leader is riding a wave of anti-corruption furor that’s changing Latin America
Mary Beth Sheridan – The Washington Post: 29 November 2018
In the wake of corruption scandals, Latin America is experiencing political change at a rapid pace, causing the greatest upheaval since democratization. The effect on the young democracies is unclear.

Geographer brings fresh perspective to study of US, world corruption in new books
University of Kansas – Phys.org: 28 November 2018
Using geography to map out world corruption hadn’t been done until geographer Barney Warf undertook a massive project to look at graft in the U.S. and globally through cartography.

For more on this theme:

In Foreign Policy Speech, Elizabeth Warren Takes Aim at Global Corruption

Will the G20 make good on their corruption promises?
https://voices.transparency.org/will-the-g20-make-good-on-their-corruption-promises-c16f22644349

Anti-corruption commission to be delayed

Pakistan PM promises whistleblower law to combat corruption
https://www.apnews.com/9ae73c474cab4771938bebe107882245c

Botswana corruption conference draws African policymakers

Shades of Brazil as anti-corruption drive in South Africa turns nasty

Using data-science to evaluate whether Xi Jinping’s anti-corruption sweeps were really about consolidating power

Venezuela’s Bribing Menu Brings Transparency to Corruption

Companies Are Taking Unstructured Approach to Corruption
https://www.mhlnews.com/global-supply-chain/companies-are-taking-unstructured-approach-corruption
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Narcos: the hidden drug highways linking Asia and Latin America
Raquel Carvalho and Marcelo Duhalde – South China Morning Post: 24 November 2018
Nigerian intermediaries recruit drug mules to transport drugs from Latin American cartels to markets in China via Chinese gangs. Innocent women and children seeking better lives are caught up in the drug networks.

West Africa’s first state-run rehab clinic lets addicts shoot up
Nosmot Gbadamosi – CNN: 23 November 2018
In a Senegal hospital, one of only a handful of its type in Africa, people wait for their daily methadone treatment and a safe place to inject opioid substitutes. The clinic’s goal is to reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS among addicts.

For more on this theme:
Parts of Asia are slipping into the hands of organized crime

Why Hong Kong policy on drug crime must treat mules and traffickers differently

Al Arabiya documentary reveals Hezbollah’s drug trade, money laundering links

Could decriminalization of Mexico’s poppy farms reduce drug-cartel violence?

Philippines drugs war: 3 Manila cops found guilty in first police convictions

Production, abuse and smuggling Drugs spreading in Syria

Drug overdose deaths were so bad in 2017, they reduced overall life expectancy

An opioid epidemic may be looming in Mexico — and the U.S. may be partly responsible
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

China's Mixed Messages on the Global Trade in Endangered-Animal Parts
Brook Larmer – The New York Times Magazine: 27 November 2018

Why is China wavering on its otherwise demonstrable desire to build an “ecological civilization”? It’s clear that the ecological overtures cannot make up for the demand of its citizens for trafficked animal parts.


Wildlife agency to expand detection dogs all over Africa
Xinhua: 28 November 2018

The Africa Wildlife Foundation has noted the successful deployment of wildlife sniffer dogs to ports of entry in Kenya and has decided to supply dogs to all African countries to help combat illicit wildlife trade.


For more on this theme:

Online illegal wildlife trade: Species extinction at Internet speed

Uganda, Kenya To Adopt Universal Strategy To Combat Wildlife Trafficking

$2bn to step up war against poaching
https://www.theafrican.co.ke/scienceandhealth/-2b-to-step-up-war-against-poaching/3073694-4866748-c0gbttz/index.html

The Bangladeshi tribe that's guarding turtles, co-authoring research papers

Brightly-colored frogs illuminate Colombia's battle against animal trafficking

Countering Illicit Trade to Combat the Misuse of Free Trade Zones (FTZs) by Organized Criminal Syndicates, Corrupt Facilitators, Money Launderers, and Terrorists

Snaring has become the greatest threat to African lions

Conservationists to help AU develop better wildlife protection policy

Protecting Botswana’s elephants isn’t a numbers game
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/protecting-botswanas-elephants-isnt-a-numbers-game
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

New rule puts U.S. trafficking victims at higher risk of deportation
Jason Fields – Reuters: 29 November 2018

A new rule that seeks to deport people who cannot prove they were illegally trafficked into the U.S. may force victims underground rather than encourage them to apply for a visa to stay legally.

http://news.trust.org/item/20181129013802-so5sl/

Getting ahead of human traffickers, mapping slavery hot spots in poorest states of Brazil
Devdiscourse News Desk: 29 November 2018

By mapping slavery hot spots, authorities in one of Brazil’s poorest states may be able to get ahead of the human traffickers.


For more on this theme:
Can bank alliances prevent human trafficking?

Azerbaijan must do more to combat human trafficking

A palm oil giant has been sanctioned over forced labor and trafficking workers

CoE: Ukraine Must Improve Fight Against Trafficking

Thailand, Australia sign anti-human trafficking agreement

Migrant boats: Smugglers targeted from intelligence centre in Calais

ACP Fights Human Trafficking, Migrant Smuggling in Africa
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The Future of Internet Governance? Comments on IGF 2018 Speech by French President Emmanuel Macron
Klaus Stoll – CircleID: 28 November 2018
At the recent Internet Governance Forum in Paris, the French president offered some interesting approaches to governing the internet.

For more on this theme:
(France) France is ditching Google to reclaim its online independence
https://www.wired.co.uk/article/google-france-silicon-valley
(Global) Paris Call: A Missed Call or a Great Opportunity?
(Germany, Global) German Hate Speech Legislation Receives Mixed Review At German Internet Governance Forum

INTERNET FREEDOM

China: The Masters and Commanders of Internet Censorship
Jaber AlSabah – Asia Media International: 27 November 2018
Even when Chinese citizens have the tools to bypass censorship on the internet, almost half don’t bother. In fact, Chinese youths are beginning to support the government’s censorship.

For more on this theme:
(China) How China Walled Off the Internet
(Russia) Russian lawmakers want to start regulating the volunteers who help rat out ‘Internet offenders’
(Global) Surveillance Kills Freedom By Killing Experimentation
https://www.wired.com/story/mcsweeneys-excerpt-the-right-to-experiment/
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

It moved fast and broke things, now Silicon Valley must rebuild trust

Lauren Joseph – World Economic Forum: 29 November 2018

Silicon Valley enjoyed a period during which the awe of technology kept consumers from questioning the security and privacy ramifications of providing their personal information to tech companies. Now, after a series of missteps and breaches, Silicon Valley has to win back its customers’ trust.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Rise of the Machines: A New World of Identity Governance

(U.S., Global) How Corporate Boards Can Be More Proactive Mitigating Cyber Risks

(Global) Creating secure digital identities with blockchain, Sovrin style

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

UK cyber security strategy making ‘good progress’

Warwick Ashford – Computer Weekly: 29 November 2018

Since the launch in 2016 of the United Kingdom’s National Cyber Security Strategy, the government has made a lot of progress, but more remains to be done.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Recap of the 2018 ITU Plenipotentiary: From Connecting the World to Investigating Digital Application and Services

(U.S.) An Outcome-Based Analysis of U.S. Cyber Strategy of Persistence & Defense Forward

(Bhutan) MoIC to draft a national cyber security strategy
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

To Get to Zero Botnets, Don’t Wait for Governments to Lead
Robert K. Knake – Council on Foreign Relations: 26 November 2018

A global initiative of public and private organizations is needed to eliminate botnets, which infect private computers without the owners’ knowledge. Public/private partnerships to combat botnets don’t have to be initiated by government agencies; private companies may be better suited to pressure the actors that enable botnets to persist.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/get-zero-botnets-dont-wait-governments-lead

For more on this theme:
(Australia) NSW releases industry-focused cyber security strategy

(U.S.) Op-Ed: America’s Vulnerable Networks – A Framework for a Safer Internet

(Global) Zurich Strengthens its Contribution to Public-Private Efforts on Cybersecurity

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

China’s cyberespionage isn’t changing rapidly — America’s will to confront it is
Christopher Porter – The Hill: 29 November 2018

America used to be content to hold China accountable only for obscene breaches of agreements not to steal intellectual property. But under U.S. President Donald Trump, that is changing — technical compliance is no longer enough.


For more on this theme:
(U.S., China, Global) US presses allies to stop using equipment from Chinese firm amid spy fears

(U.S., Iran, Global) US, allies face cyber threats from Iran

(Global) New industrial espionage campaign leverages AutoCAD-based malware
Three "cyber superpowers" — the U.S., China and Russia — have adopted cyber warfare as a standard tool of international politics. Other actors also factor into the equation, especially Estonia, France, India, Iran, Israel and North Korea.

For more on this theme:

(Taiwan) Innovation Is Empowering Taiwan’s Cyber Security Capabilities
https://www.businessinsider.sg/innovation-is-empowering-taiwans-cyber-security-capabilities/

(Africa) The Technology Space Is Rapidly Evolving in Africa, and It’s Not All Good News

(U.S., Israel) New York to be developed into cybersecurity hub

Combating Terrorism and Cyber Crime

Financial Services Firms Are Fighting Cyber-Crime More Effectively, But Vulnerabilities Remain
Steve Culp – Forbes: 27 November 2018

Research conducted by Accenture shows that financial services firms are getting better at stopping cyber attacks, but they must continue to advance to keep pace with cyber criminals.

For more on this theme:

(Global) The terror–cyber–crime nexus and terrorists’ innovation

(Global) Strategic directions of the Cybercrime Convention Committee for 2019

(Middle East, North Africa) Middle East, North Africa Cybercrime Ups Its Game
INFORMATION SHARING

Increasing Cyberthreats To Critical Infrastructure And The Need For Information Sharing
John Callahan – Forbes: 28 November 2018

As the cyber threat continues to grow against critical infrastructure, sharing information has become necessary to reduce the risk of and damage from an attack.

For more on this theme:
(Singapore) Cisco enhances cyber security cooperation with Singapore

(NATO) NATO’s biggest cyber exercise starts in Tartu, Estonia
https://www.baltictimes.com/natos_biggest_cyber_exercise_starts_in_tartu__estonia/

(Global) Three ways artificial intelligence can improve cybersecurity

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Russian Hackers Haven’t Stopped Probing the US Power Grid
Lily Hay Newman – Wired: 28 November 2018

At a forum for cyber researchers in Washington, D.C., representatives of security firm FireEye made it clear that the U.S. power grid, while strong and well-defended, is nevertheless the subject of continued, ongoing probes from Russian hackers.
https://www.wired.com/story/russian-hackers-us-power-grid-attacks/

For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) How IoT may threaten cybersecurity of critical energy infrastructure

(Australia) It’s game on when it comes to protecting our critical infrastructure

(U.S., Global) 8 Tips for Preventing Credential Theft Attacks on Critical Infrastructure
https://www.darkreading.com/endpoint/8-tips-for-preventing-credential-theft-attacks-on-critical-infrastructure-a/d-id/1333312
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

Is Islamic State in West Africa becoming more hardline?
Omar S Mahmood – Institute for Security Studies: 28 November 2018
Apparent changes in leadership within the Islamic State in West Africa may indicate the group is more hardened and poses a greater threat in the Lake Chad region.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/is-islamic-state-in-west-africa-becoming-more-hardline

Islamic State Divided: Competing Theological and Ideological Trends
Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi – Middle East Forum: 23 November 2018
The concept of takfir (pronouncing someone to be non-Muslim) is a source of contention among different factions within ISIS.

For more on this theme:
Is the ‘Islamic State’ making a comeback in Iraq?
The “Islamic State” Without a State
https://dayan.org/content/islamic-state-without-state
Russia says Islamic State militants plan chemical attack
https://www.apnews.com/7c798fbc0664b2da05af4168dc643a4
Islamic State: gone or here to stay?
https://www.mnnonline.org/news/islamic-state-gone-or-here-to-stay/
Islamic State Seizes Weapons Bound for Gaza Strip
https://www.thetrumpet.com/17995-islamic-state-seizes-weapons-bound-for-gaza-strip
US Military Says It Can’t Take Out Remaining ISIS Fighters Because They’re Hiding In Tunnels
https://taskandpurpose.com/syria-isis-avoids-annihilation/
Long Island Woman Admits To Using Bitcoin To Launder Money For ISIS
After the caliphate: What next for IS?
ISIS Involved in Mass Prison Riot, Dushanbe Admits
ISIS Having Broader Concept
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Was Syria Different? Anticipating the Next Islamic State
Daniel Byman – Lawfare: 20 November 2018

Counterterrorism experts are on the lookout for the next ISIS. But they should not assume that past causes seen in Syria and Iraq will prod a similar group to form. Those circumstances were unusual, though not unique.
https://www.lawfareblog.com/was-syria-different-anticipating-next-islamic-state

How We Can End The Exploitation Of Women By Terrorist Groups
Nikita Malik – Forbes: 28 November 2018

ISIS and other terrorist groups use sex slaves to attract men into their fold. The women are used to recruit, retain and reward good fighters, and to punish disbelievers.

For more on this theme:
Former al-Shabaab spokesman now running for political office

‘Boko Haram Using Drones, Mercenaries Against Nigerian Troops’

Hamas calls on UN to support Palestinians’ right to bear arms against Israel

Why Hamas needs Iran
https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20181128-why-hamas-needs-iran/

Hezbollah’s Evolving Role in Syria and Lebanon

Sanctioning Hezbollah
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/sanctioning-hezbollah

Afghan President Ghani Forms Team for Peace Talks With Taliban

The Taliban’s Battle Plan

Turkey and Terrorism
https://eeradicalization.com/turkey-and-terrorism/

Terrorism Trends in Central Asia
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

The New Radicalization of the Internet
The New York Times: 24 November 2018

Jihadist and right-wing extremist groups are more similar than you may think in the way they use social media to recruit fanatics and maintain a community of like-minded individuals they can spur into action.


Islamic State’s ‘dangerously effective’ recruitment in Australia: How they radicalise young men
Shannon Molloy – news.com.au: 26 November 2018

ISIS’ recruitment strategy in Australia is to mimic legitimate advertisements for the Australian military – sell the idea that there is a cause greater than the self and that the recruits will be part of something meaningful.


For more on this theme:

Israel Blocks Hamas’ Websites, Redirects to Government Page

Cyber Terrorism and its Securitization in Pakistan

Experts: No coordination in Bangladesh govt de-radicalization programs


Critics Say YouTube Hasn’t Done Enough To Crack Down On Extremist Content

The Far-Right and Islamism: A Complicated Love Story
https://eeradicalization.com/the-far-right-and-islamism-a-complicated-love-story/

Europe’s rising anti-Semitism demands a new social contract

After 11 months of deradicalization, ex-Boko Haram terrorists seek forgiveness in Gombe
https://www.legit.ng/1205635-after-11-months-de-radicalization-boko-haram-terrorists-seek-forgiveness-gombe.html
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Thousands Of ISIS Militants' Family Members Are Being Held In Syrian Detention Camps
Ruth Sherlock – NPR: 27 November 2018

Women and children who are part of so-called ISIS families are being held in camps in Syria. Their status is in limbo because no one seems to know what to do with these families.

For more on this theme:
Australian judge sentences Islamic State supporter to 38 years in jail

French Court jails Islamic State returnee for 10 years
https://theeagleonline.com.ng/french-court-jails-islamic-state-returnee-for-10-years/

Children of Isis brides ‘should be let into UK’
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/children-of-isis-brides-should-be-let-into-uk-pqdhv7vt

How ‘foreign’ are foreign terrorist fighters in Africa?
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/how-foreign-are-foreign-terrorist-fighters-in-africa

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Confronting America’s Violent Extremists: A Terrorism Prevention Strategy for the Homeland
Haroro J. Ingram – Foreign Policy Research Institute: 26 November 2018

Violent extremism in the U.S. has been demonstrated in spades recently and is an acknowledged vulnerability. According to the U.S. National Strategy for Counterterrorism: “Over the past seventeen years, we have built a robust counter-terrorism architecture to stop attacks and eliminate terrorists, but we have not developed a prevention architecture to thwart terrorist radicalization and recruitment.”

For more on this theme:
The Hunt: How counterterrorism effort is progressing at year’s end

New US strategy for counterterrorism: Implications for Southeast Asia

Q&A with Alessandro Politi: How much have counterterrorism efforts accomplished?