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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

How to fight corruption most effectively by carefully studying the context

Research shows that the answer to what constitutes corruption depends on the importance of informal networks in your country, whether you belong to one and who benefits from their use. Understanding corruption as a context-dependent phenomenon could help fight it more efficiently.
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/11/how-companies-should-cope-with-corruption/

Countries Call For World Anti-corruption Court
Agence France-Presse: 28 November 2022

The Netherlands, Canada and Ecuador backed calls for the creation of a global anti-corruption court, saying it would help tackle kleptocrats at the head of governments.

For more on this theme:

Organized Crime and Corruption in South Africa: A 12-Month Outlook

Most Filipinos say govt should strengthen anti-corruption measures — survey

2022 corruption index: Estonia ranked fifth lowest risk for corruption

Taiwan charges army officer with corruption, harming state security

Guatemala reportedly arrests officials for corruption in highway project

National Anti-Corruption Commission clears final hurdle, passes House of Representatives

Mozambique court hands out verdicts in $2bn corruption case

Honduras to complete talks with UN on anti-corruption mission, says president

Cyprus president wants corruption claims against him investigated
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Cocaine Brokers: The Flexible Backbone of the 'Ndrangheta Trafficking Empire
Douwe Den Held – InSight Crime: 23 November 2022

The 'Ndrangheta’s decentralized operations give the clans flexibility to adapt to leadership losses while limiting the fallout to the broader network.

https://insightcrime.org/investigations/cocaine-brokers-flexible-backbone-ndrangheta-trafficking-empire/

Was a Super Cartel Really Controlling Europe's Drug Trade?
Douwe Den Held – InSight Crime: 29 November 2022

The arrest of a top Balkan drug trafficker in Dubai has revealed how some of Europe’s leading drug traffickers were able to work together to procure cocaine in bulk from producer countries in Latin America.


For more on this theme:

Afghan Rehab Centers Failing Drug Addicts After Taliban Takeover

The 'Ndrangheta Connection to Colombia’s Paramilitaries
https://insightcrime.org/investigations/ndrangheta-connection-colombia-paramilitaries/

The 'Ndrangheta: Versatile Middlemen in the Cocaine Pipeline to Europe
https://insightcrime.org/investigations/ndrangheta-versatile-middlemen-cocaine-pipeline-to-europe/

In a Landmark Ruling, Mexican Court Upholds U.S. Forfeiture Order Authorizing Seizure of Drug Cartel Leader’s Real Estate

Corruption, Cocaine, and Gold: Interview With Suriname’s President Santokhi

From Syria to Italy via UAE: How Europe's most notorious drug trafficker was arrested
https://www.wionews.com/world/from-syria-to-italy-via-uae-europes-most-notorious-drug-trafficker-was-arrested-534985

Report: Houthi militia turns Yemen into an “open market” for Iranian drugs
https://www.yemenonline.info/special-reports/6901

Belgium Has Seized More Cocaine Than It Can Destroy

Bangladesh caught in a narco triangle

Captagon drug spreads in Syrian Al-Baath University
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Forest management tool could help rein in rampant wildlife trade in Bangladesh
Mahadi Al Hasnat – Mongabay: 28 November 2022

The Bangladesh Forest Department has introduced a Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool to help stop wildlife trafficking in several of the country’s protected forest areas.

Indigenous youths lured by the illegal mines destroying their Amazon homeland
Victor Raison and Jean-Mathieu Albertini – Mongabay: 30 November 2022

An increasing number of young people in Brazil’s Yanomami Indigenous Territory are leaving their communities and turning to illegal gold mining — lured by the promise of small fortunes and a new lifestyle.

For more on this theme:
Report: Japan’s Legal Ivory Market Fuels Smuggling

This invention is bad news for illegal hunters and poachers
https://www.fairplanet.org/story/this-invention-is-bad-news-for-illegal-hunters-and-poachers/

An alternative to pangolins — protection through plant-based substitutes in traditional Chinese medicine

Analysis: The next Amazon? Congo Basin faces rising deforestation threat

Illegal mining in Peru Threatens Protected Areas
https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/illegal-mining-in-peru-threatens-protected-areas/

Suspected illegal fishing revealed by ships’ tracking data
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-03658-9

Controlled Fishing in Amazon Area Helps Save Huge Endangered Fish

Violence Rising in Hidalgo, Mexico’s Oil Theft Center

Fight against international wildlife crime stepped up
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Who Should Control The Internet?
Jeffery Edell – Rolling Stone: 30 November 2022

Web3, if executed correctly, could fundamentally disrupt the consolidation of power from “big tech” to “people tech.”
https://www.rollingstone.com/culture-council/articles/who-should-control-internet-1234638427/

For more on this theme:
(India) After years without data privacy rules, India floats two sets in a week

(Global) Cyber Norms in the Context of Armed Conflict
https://www.lawfareblog.com/cyber-norms-context-armed-conflict

(Global) Council of Europe at the 2022 Internet Governance Forum in Ethiopia

INTERNET FREEDOM

Iraq’s Parliament discusses controversial cyber crimes bill
Sinan Mahmoud — The National MENA: 21 November 2022

There are widespread objections to a bill that proposes heavy prison sentences and fines for peaceful online expressions of dissent in Iraq. Anyone found to be threatening the country’s “independence, unity, safety and its economic, political, military and security interests” would face life imprisonment, according to a copy of the bill.

For more on this theme:
(China) China to step up internet censorship with stricter rules for social media and streaming sites

(Ethiopia) ‘No timeline’ for restoring internet to Tigray: Ethiopia minister

(Global) Opinion: How data restrictions erode internet freedom
CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

U.S. Must Lead on International Tech Standards to Counter Chinese Influence: Raimondo
David B. McGarry – Broadband Breakfast: 30 November 2022

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo called for strong U.S. leadership on international technology governance in opposition to expanding Chinese influence.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Cybersecurity Speaker Series: 5G Security Impacts National Security

(Australia) The future of digital identity in Australia

(Russia, Global) ‘They grab their lunches and sit alone’: Russians shunned at global cyber confabs

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

The AIIMS cyber attack is a wake-up call for national security
Subimal Bhattacharjee – Indian Express: 1 December 2022

Such attacks highlight the importance of creating and implementing a national cybersecurity strategy.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Hive ransomware actors have amassed $100m from 1,300 businesses: CISA
https://www.computing.co.uk/news/4060561/hive-ransomware-actors-amassed-usd100m-300-businesses-cisa

(Global) Feds arrest Russians allegedly behind ‘world’s largest’ pirated ebook library

(Vanuatu) Vanuatu officials turn to phone books and typewriters, one month after cyber attack
CYBERCRIME

Cyber Ready: Africa’s Response to Growing Cyber Threats
Osaye Ajari – The Republic: 29 November 2022

Despite steep losses suffered across Africa to cyber threats, spending toward the prevention of future cyberattacks on the continent has not risen to meet the need for greater protection.

For more on this theme:
(Australia) Australia forms multi-agency task force to combat cyber crime

(Global) Tech InDepth: Understanding Passkeys and the password-free future

(U.S) White House expected to issue executive order reining in spyware

(Global) HowTo: Fight Cyber-Threats in the Metaverse

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

How the cyber incident reporting law could finally fix the information sharing problem
Christian Vasquez – Cyberscoop: 23 November 2022

Government and industry have long struggled with cybersecurity information sharing, but the cyber-incident reporting measure passed by Congress could be the best chance to improve the flow of data between companies and government — if the U.S. Department of Homeland Security can get the details right.
https://www.cyberscoop.com/cisa-cyber-reporting-law/

For more on this theme:
(Global) Building tailored cyber resilience for critical infrastructure

(U.K.) UK cybersecurity rules enhanced to protect critical national infrastructure

(Australia) Calls to Enhance Security of Critical Infrastructure
ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

ISIS acknowledges the death of its leader, announces his successor
Eyad Kourdi – CNN 30 November 2022
The group’s media affiliate, al-Furqan, published an audio message by a spokesman announcing the death of its leader, who was appointed in March.

Turkish Airstrikes Have Slowed the Fight Against ISIS, Officials Say
Caitlin M. Kenney – Defense One 29 November 2022
Syrian Democratic Forces commander and a U.S. Pentagon spokesman call on Ankara to de-escalate actions.
Statement:
DOD Statement on Escalating Actions in Iraq, Syria, and Turkey

For more on this theme:
Counter ISIS Finance Group Leaders Joint Statement
Islamic State: Kurdish forces threaten to stop guarding camps
ISIS Supporter’s Sentence for Aiding Terrorist Group Is Upheld
The militarisation of motherhood: repatriating ISIS’s Western women
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/militarisation-motherhood-repatriating-isis-s-western-women
Australia: Many Children Returned from Syria Detention Doing Well
Islamic State Supporters on Twitter: How is ‘New’ Twitter Handling an Old Problem?
https://gnet-research.org/2022/11/18/islamic-state-supporters-on-twitter-how-is-new-twitter-handling-an-old-problem/
Islamic State: Lebanon’s economic collapse drives recruitment
Islamic State Increases Attacks as Pakistani Taliban Negotiates
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

The Growth of Salafi-Jihadism in the Sahel: The Spread of Al-Qaedaism
Isaac Kfir – European Eye on Radicalization: 24 November 2022

There has been a substantial increase in violent extremist activity in the Sahel.

For more on this theme:

Has al-Qaeda gained new footholds in Sudan?
https://sudantribune.com/article266724/

IntelBrief: Afghanistan in a State of ‘Durable Disorder’ Under the Taliban Government
https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2022-november-16/

Wagner ‘atrocities’ give ammunition to Mali jihadists

The coup in Burkina Faso highlights the links between jihadism and military takeovers in West Africa

Taliban Has Plunged Afghanistan Into ‘Dire’ Conditions, Says UN
https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-taliban-dire-conditions-un/32125570.html

Somalia Fights Back Against Al-Shabab Attack on Education Sector

Nigeria and Cost of Boko Haram Insurgency
https://prnigeria.com/2022/11/16/nigeria-cost-boko-haram/

Terrorism intensifying across Africa, exploiting instability and conflict

Combating Spread of Terrorism in Africa ‘Not a Concern for African States Alone, Challenge Belongs to All of Us’, Secretary-General Tells Security Council

The EU’s focus on terrorist financing has faded — the threat has not
https://www.politico.eu/article/the-eu-focus-on-terrorist-financing-has-faded-the-threat-has-not/

Survey reveals worrying trend in conspiracy theories that deny terrorist attacks ever happened

The cyber strategy and operations of Hamas: Green flags and green hats
A report by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights found that Russian forces committed widespread abuse against prisoners captured in Ukraine.


For more on this theme:

The Lawfare Podcast: Alex de Waal on the Conflict in Ethiopia and Tigray

Vladimir Putin’s Ukrainian Genocide: Nobody can claim they did not know
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/vladimir-putins-ukrainian-genocide-nobody-can-claim-they-did-not-know/

Russia: Taming the Outlaw State
https://cepa.org/article/russia-taming-the-outlaw-state/

Making Russia Pay
https://cepa.org/article/making-russia-pay/

Guns Bleed Back Into Russia From Ukraine, Sparking Spike In Violent Crime

Presidential Memorandum to Promote Accountability for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

UK leads global action to tackle sexual violence in conflict

Russia-Ukraine conflict: EU plans war crimes court
https://www.irishtimes.com/world/europe/2022/11/30/russia-ukraine-war-latest/

Guatemala: UN expert condemns targeting of prosecutor and judge

Some Russian commanders encouraged sexual violence, says lawyer advising Kyiv

The Ethiopia-Tigray Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and the Question of Accountability for International Crimes
CRIME AND CONFLICT

For more on this theme:

Starvation being used as a weapon of war in South Sudan, report reveals

Pushing forward: Ending conflict-related sexual violence in Ukraine

Colombia’s ex-FARC leaders face up to eight year sentences for kidnappings

Ukraine war: Russia atrocities bring Nato members closer

Gender Norms as a Tool for Wartime Torturers – A Look at Sexual and Gender-Based Violence under International Humanitarian Law

Mali: End conflict-related sexual violence

South Sudan: Amnesty urges AU action on war crimes court

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Russia Crisis Military Assessment: Can Ukraine press its offensive this winter?
Atlantic Council: 30 November 2022
Time is not on Kyiv’s side. Ukraine’s ability to sustain the fight against Russia hinges on NATO and U.S. support and, as the West endures higher energy and food costs, the calls for an end to the war will only grow louder.

For more on this theme:

Ukraine Symposium – Further Thoughts on Russia’s Campaign against Ukraine’s Power Infrastructure
https://lieber.westpoint.edu/further-thoughts-russias-campaign-against-ukraines-power-infrastructure/

Is Russia ‘weaponizing’ winter? Europe scrambles to keep Ukraine warm.
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

European Parliament declares Russia ‘state sponsor of terrorism’

Russia backtracks on threat to cut gas supply to Moldova via Ukraine

Kazakhstan's Toqaev Tells Putin Russia Strategic Partner Despite Ukraine War
https://www.rferl.org/a/kazakhstan-russia-toqaev-putin-partners/32152374.html

As Russia struggles in Ukraine, repression mounts at home
https://www.cnn.com/2022/12/01/europe/russia-foreign-agents-repression-intl/index.html

Ukraine Can Beat Russia in the Bombardment War of Attrition

As Putin retreats in Ukraine, he is also losing Kazakhstan
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/as-putin-retreats-in-ukraine-he-is-also-losing-kazakhstan/

Preparing for victory: A long-haul strategy to help Ukraine win the war against Russia — and secure the peace

A badly designed Ukraine bailout could backfire on the IMF. Here’s how to get it right.
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/a-badly-designed-ukraine-bailout-could-imperil-the-imfs-global-support-heres-how-to-avoid-it/

Ukraine conflict: How much damage has Russia done to power supplies?

A Paradigm Shift: EU-Russia Relations After the War in Ukraine

Former Estonian Military Chief: 'Ukraine Has Already Won' In War With Russia
https://www.rferl.org/a/estonian-military-chief-ukraine-has-won-russia-war-invasion/32150777.html

Factbox: What are Russia and Ukraine's positions on talks to end the war?

Russia 'quite effective' in pushing Ukraine war narrative in India and other countries:
Latvia State Secretary Andris Pels

Analysis: Should Ukraine Negotiate with Russia?
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia can no longer rely on General Winter
https://www.politico.eu/article/russia-ukraine-war-energy-army-can-no-longer-rely-on-general-winter/

The real costs of Russia’s Ukraine war
https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3756097-real-costs-of-russias-ukraine-war/

The Ukraine War: Recent Russian Airstrikes And NATO’s Response

How Zelensky Thinks the War Will End

Ukraine: Time for a New Berlin Airlift

Light Flares in Ukraine’s Darkness

High Treason, Stalin-Style
https://cepa.org/article/high-treason-stalin-style/

Ukraine’s Refugees Mull Return After Russian Retreats
https://cepa.org/article/ukraines-refugees-mull-return-after-russian-retreats/

The War on Russia’s Economy Is Working

Analysis: Europe wary of Turkish hub to hide gas ‘made in Moscow’

Putin’s Few Oil Buyers Demand Deep Discounts

Russia’s ‘Partial Mobilization’ And Central Asia – Analysis

The imperative of de-escalation in Ukraine: negotiations and possible solutions

Ecological Path to Peace Is Possible in Ukraine

It’s Time to Debunk Putin’s Existential Fallacy
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Analysis — Surge in Russia's defence and security spending means cuts for schools and hospitals in 2023

What's next for Ukraine air defence as Russia ramps-up civilian strikes and its fight for the skies?

Retired general predicts how Russia's war will change in the winter months

European strategic autonomy and defence after Ukraine

How Notorious Wagner Mercenary Company Scours Siberian Prisons For Soldiers To Fight In Ukraine

Managing Crises in the Information Age: Escalation Dynamics in the Russo-Ukrainian War

Support for Putin’s war in Russia has plunged, leaked poll reveals
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/11/30/support-putins-war-russia-has-plunged-leaked-poll-shows/

The ballooning costs of the Ukraine war

After Russian retreat, Ukrainian military plans next move
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-europe-moscow-army-crimea-d3b2f0fc3053f4e931e5c60bf54b275d