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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

How to fight authoritarian corruption when sanctions fail
Clay R. Fuller – American Enterprise Institute: 28 November 2018
With $300 billion-plus being laundered annually in the U.S., Congress needs to come up with a new approach to fight authoritarian corruption.
https://www.aei.org/publication/fighting-corruption-when-sanctions-fail/

UAE widens scope of penal code to fight corruption
Samir Salama – Gulf News: 5 December 2018
The United Arab Emirates has expanded its penal code to include foreign and domestic acts of bribery covering the public and private sectors.

For more on this theme:
Anti-Corruption Workshop for Ukrainian Lawyers
https://iwpr.net/global-voices/anti-corruption-workshop-ukrainian-lawyers

Major summit staged in London as part of global fight against corruption in sport

Young people take to Amman’s streets against new tax law and corruption
https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/young-people-take-to-amman-s-streets-against-new-tax-law-and-corruption-1.800075

UNODC hosts youth conference on anti corruption

Fighting land corruption in Papua New Guinea
https://voices.transparency.org/fighting-land-corruption-in-papua-new-guinea-c23de5377f64

Serious About Fighting Corruption? How To Encourage Whistleblowing In Your Business

New global survey highlights bribery and corruption in businesses

Divide and Conquer: How Romania Lost the War on Corruption

AU must up its game if it wants to engage Africans on corruption
https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2018-12-03-au-must-up-its-game-if-it-wants-to-engage-africans-on-corruption/
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Can Drug Regulation Help Tackle Organized Crime?
Josefina Salomón – InSight Crime: 28 November 2018

The Global Commission on Drugs reports that regulating illicit drugs can help governments tackle organized crime. The premise is that the illegal drug trade benefits only criminals, while countries are forced to pay the consequences.

Mexico's War on Drugs Failed
Ann Deslandes – Foreign Policy: 30 November 2018

Mexico has proposed legalizing opium production. But it will only work to beat the cartels if poppy farmers are included in the process.

For more on this theme:

Africa's Time To Shape International Drug Policy

The U.S. Needs to Decriminalize Drug Possession Now

Malaysia death penalty abolition opens door to drug policy review

Coast Guard crews are capturing record amounts of cocaine — here's how they chase down high-seas smugglers

Does the sentencing bill give early release to drug traffickers, sex offenders?

Venezuela Coastal State Could Be Hot New Drug Trafficking Route

This is the state of Mexican drug trafficking as the new president takes power

Colombia’s Criminal Evolution 25 Years After Pablo Escobar’s Death

Feds threaten reprisals if Denver proceeds with supervised drug-use site
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Operation Dragon: Revealing new evidence of the scale of corruption and trafficking in the turtle and tortoise trade
Wildlife Justice Commission: December 2018

A Wildlife Justice Commission report details its Operation Dragon, a two-year investigation into the illegal trade in endangered reptiles in South and Southeast Asia.
https://wildlifejustice.org/turtles-operation-dragon/

This impoverished region is a hub for the cheetah trade. Now it’s fighting back.
Simon Worrall – National Geographic: 4 December 2018

Somaliland is beginning to take action against the trafficking of cheetah cubs from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Gulf states. Recently, for the first time, traffickers were sentenced to jail.

For more on this theme:

Five technologies to save wildlife from traffickers

From AI to Drones, Smart Technology is Firing Up Wildlife Conservation Globally

Living Planet: Illegal trade in wildlife

Chinese contradictions on animal trafficking
https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/views/analysis/chinese-contradictions-on-animal-trafficking-890414.html

DNA Forensics Can End Ivory Trafficking. Will Countries Play Along?
https://daily.jstor.org/dna-forensics-can-end-ivory-trafficking-will-countries-play-along/

Closing off smuggling routes to wildlife traffickers in Africa

Congo Basin: Partners speak of need for collaboration to safeguard forest ecosystems
https://www.traffic.org/news/congo-basin-partners-speak-of-need-for-collaboration-to-safeguard-forest-ecosystems/

Hunters become saviors in remote Bangladesh forests

Understanding Local Impacts to Inform Wildlife Conservation

Hidden costs – how infrastructure development may fuel illegal wildlife trade
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The perplexities of human trafficking in South Africa
Marcel van der Watt and Johan Burger – Institute for Security Studies (ISS):
30 November 2018

South Africa struggles to quantify its human trafficking problem, owing to an absence of statistical data. Multiple obstacles – including whether to include compulsory marriages of teen brides as a crime – were discussed at an ISS seminar in October.

Will next week’s migration compact be global?
Tsion Tadesse Abebe – Institute for Security Studies: 6 December 2018

Nine key states will likely withhold support for a new agreement to regulate migration, but experts believe the pact will benefit Africa and provide a basis for strong global governance.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/will-next-weeks-migration-compact-be-global

For more on this theme:
How Stop the Traffik and Barclays are using tech in the global fight to stop human trafficking

Tougher collective measures vs human trafficking sought

Human Trafficking: State and USAID Should Improve Their Monitoring of International Counter-trafficking Projects

Nations, gov't agencies urged to fight human trafficking

SA makes Human Trafficking Act official

Video: Libyan town of Sabratha cracks down on people smuggling

Are the EU’s migration policies putting human lives at risk?

This Is How Europe Dealt With Migration
https://nationalinterest.org/feature/how-europe-dealt-migration-37577

Confronting the link between climate change and migration
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

**Can China have difficult conversations about the internet?**
* Cameron F. Kerry – Brookings: 6 December 2018

At China’s fifth World Internet Congress, China presented an alternative to the multistakeholder system of internet governance. This alternative allows authoritarian governments to block web content and access in the name of national sovereignty.

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2018/12/06/can-china-have-difficult-conversations-about-the-internet/

*For more on this theme:*

  **(Global) The Digital Deciders and The Future of Internet**

  **(Global) Avoiding A World War Web: The Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace**

  **(Global) A more dangerous Internet is on its way to the world**
  https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001305204/a-more-dangerous-internet-is-on-its-way-to-the-world

INTERNET FREEDOM

**Authoritarians Are Exporting Surveillance Tech, And With it Their Vision for the Internet**
* Justin Sherman – Council on Foreign Relations: 5 December 2018

Authoritarian nations such as Russia and China have been exporting their surveillance technology and policies of internet censorship to countries around the globe.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/authoritarians-are-exporting-surveillance-tech-and-it-their-vision-internet

*For more on this theme:*

  **(Turkey) Turkish activists battle internet censorship in court**

  **(EU) EU Members Push For Private Censorship Of Terrorist Content On The Internet**

  https://www.newsweek.com/tumblr-censorship-ban-alternatives-pillowfort-1244094
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Protection of children online: does current regulation deliver?
Sonia Livingstone and Emma Goodman – London School of Economics: 27 November 2018

Despite new and revised legislation in Europe, the authors argue that the current European framework is insufficient to protect children on the internet.


For more on this theme:

(Europe, Global) Cybersecurity needs a holistic approach. Here are three ways to build protection

(Pakistan) Cyber security for banks and national institutions

(China) Electric-car owners in China are worried their vehicles are sending their locations to the government

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Israel’s cyber ecosystem
Isaac Kfir – Asia & the Pacific Policy Society: 29 November 2018

To foster the nation’s cyber security startups, Israel has developed a policy of adaptation. Israel focuses on flexibility, acknowledging that cyber threats are ever-changing.

https://www.policyforum.net/israels-cyber-ecosystem/

For more on this theme:

(China, Africa) Will China’s Investments Reshape Africa’s Internet?

(Libya) Libya’s ICT: Fragmented, but not broken

(Global) Public Diplomacy in the Digital Age
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Fighting Terrorism Online: Public-private sector cooperation as important as ever at the fourth EU Internet Forum

European Commission: 5 December 2018

The European Commission focused on the need for public/private partnership when it comes to tackling terrorism online.


For more on this theme:

(Malaysia) Stronger public private partnership required to drive Industry 4.0 in Malaysia
https://www.digitalnewsasia.com/digital-economy/stronger-public-private-partnership-required-drive-industry-4-0-malaysia

(Kenya) MPs pass motion on free Wi-Fi for every constituency
https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018/12/05/mps-pass-motion-on-free-wi-fi-for-every-constituency_c1861557

(Hong Kong) Govt-private partnership needed to push API Economy

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

European Union: Presumption Of Liability For Owners Of Internet Connections Used To Infringe Copyright

Thibaut D’hulst – Mondaq: 6 December 2018

The Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that national legislation cannot protect the owner of an internet connection used for copyright infringement just because the owner can name another family member who had access to that connection.

http://www.mondaq.com/x/760078/Copyright/Presumption+Of+Liability+For+Owners+Of+Internet+Connections+Used+To+Infringe+Copyright

For more on this theme:

(Global) An internet to protect the internet?

(China, U.S.) How intellectual property and censorship have haunted a century of China-US trade talks
https://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/united-states/article/2176723/how-intellectual-property-and-censorship-have

(South Africa) Defending Fair Use In South Africa
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

‘Big bird’ to push high-speed data era
The Hindu: 6 December 2018
India launched GSAT-11, an advanced communication satellite, to bring high-speed internet to rural and remote areas.

For more on this theme:
(China, Global) How can China help bridge the digital divide?
(Pakistan) Why Pakistan needs Digital Transformation?
(Senegal) Senegal Govt. ties up with Internet Society to make IoT security stronger

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

CISOs given cyber leadership role in Australia’s new Information Security Manual
Stilgherrian – ZDNet: 3 December 2018
Australia issued a new Information Security Manual that places chief information security officers (CISOs) at the heart of the fight against cyber crime.

For more on this theme:
(Nigeria) Central Bank of Nigeria Issues Draft Cybersecurity Guideline for Deposit Money Banks (DMB) and Payment Service Provider (PSP)
(Ghana) MTN to Commit More Resources to Fight Cyber Crime - Mrs Darko
https://allafrica.com/stories/201812070207.html
(Global) Cyber crime: McAfee 2019 security threat predictions
INFORMATION SHARING

Zimbabwe Information Sharing and Analysis Centre Launched
Shingie Lev Muringi – 263Chat: 6 December 2018

Zimbabwe has started a cyber-threat information-sharing center to help combat cyber crime and share tips with the public.
https://263chat.com/zimbabwe-information-sharing-and-analysis-centre-launched/

For more on this theme:
(Brazil) WhatsApp skewed Brazilian election, proving social media’s danger to democracy

(India) How Bengalureans use Whatsapp to connect and solve civic problems
http://bengaluru.citizenmatters.in/bengaluru-using-whatsapp-in-civic-activism-better-governance-29710

(Australia) Identity of a nation

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Symantec unveils neural network to protect critical infrastructure from cyber warfare
CRN: 7 December 2018

Cyber security company Symantec unveiled a new network aimed at protecting critical infrastructure, such as power grids, from cyber attacks. The Industrial Control System Protection Neural uses artificial intelligence to detect and stop potential cyber attacks on operational technology used in industries such as energy and transportation.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Nation-states, terrorists place critical infrastructure in their cross-hairs

(Ukraine, Russia) Phishing at centre of cyber attack on Ukraine infrastructure

(U.K.) Securing the UK’s critical national infrastructure
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS
After losing most of its control in Iraq, ISIS is starting to reemerge
Simona Foltyn – PBS News Hour: 2 December 2018
ISIS is carrying out more kidnappings, killings and bombings in Iraq and fighting fiercely in Syria. Driven from most of the territory it once occupied, the extremist group is returning to its insurgent roots.
https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/after-losing-most-of-its-control-in-iraq-isis-is-starting-to-reemerge

The True Origins of ISIS
Hassan Hassan – The Atlantic: 30 November 2018
A newly emerged biography suggests that extremist Abu Ali al-Anbari may have had more to do with ISIS’ radical approach than Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was previously believed to have inspired and shaped the terrorist group.

For more on this theme:
Isis news: Terror deaths fall with Isis on run
https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1054679/isis-news-terror-islamic-state-deaths-europe
UN: ISIS carrying out executions in east Syria
https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/un-isis-carrying-out-executions-in-east-syria-1.799571
Shrinking territory of Isis forces its leaders into the open, and into the crosshairs
David Pratt: Islamic State terrorists resurrect themselves with back to the future strategy
How ISIS continues to fund its insurgency
https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-isis-continues-to-fund-its-insurgency
Probe of ISIS crimes in Iraq to start in early 2019
Libyan Army Pursues ISIS Remnants in Desert
The tentative ties between the Allied Democratic Forces and ISIS
Somalia: Islamic State militants on the rise?
https://thenewsrep.com/111199/somalia-islamic-state-militants-on-the-rise/
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

This Little-Known Terror Group Poses a Greater Threat Than ISIS in Syria
James Phillips and Austin Avery – The Daily Signal: 30 November 2018

While ISIS has about 2,000 fighters left in eastern Syria, an al-Qaeda offshoot called Hayat Tahrir al-Sham has about five times as many fighters and controls half the territory in Idlib province.


Bloody rivalry erupts between al-Shabab, Islamic State in Somalia
Abdi Guled – The Associated Press: 6 December 2018

Al-Shabaab and ISIS have formed a bitter rivalry in Somalia as the groups fight for territory, recruits and profits.

https://www.apnews.com/1982417577f5465a97dc87352cb10152

For more on this theme:

Mozambique's apparent Islamist insurgency poses multiple threats

Report: Half of the Top 10 Nations with Largest Terrorism Growth Last Year Are in Africa

The Deadliest Terrorist Groups In The World Today

This is the man who recruited the 9/11 hijackers

Afghan Taliban's Continued Symbiotic Relationship With Al Qaeda And International Terrorism – Analysis

Al Qaeda tries to capitalize on Saudi controversy

Afghanistan's Taliban Is in It to Win It
https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/12/05/afghanistans-taliban-is-in-it-to-win-it/

UN rejects first attempt to condemn Hamas

Hamas Should Restore Ties With Iran
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

G20 Summit: Narendra Modi says terrorism, radicalisation ‘biggest’ challenges, calls on nations to stop terror networks
Press Trust of India – Firstpost: 30 November 2018

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told leaders at the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, that terrorism and radicalization were the biggest threats the world faces.

The search for extremist answers
Nino Bucci – Australian Broadcasting Corp.: 3 December 2018

Families of Australian extremists have come forward for a rare series of interviews they hope will help others detect early signs of radicalization in their loved ones.
https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-04/families-of-extremists-speak-up-over-terror-warning-signs/10576752

Radicalisation threat in Belgium jails: Intel report
Agence France-Presse – The Jakarta Post: 30 November 2018

Belgium faces a “persistent terror threat” and a “wave of jihadism” because prisoners are being radicalized by Islamic inmates, the country’s spy agency reports.

For more on this theme:

China’s Most Popular App Is Full of Hate

Jihad Tourism?

Cameroon: What the reintegration of Boko Haram fighters means

Mass Radicalization in the USA
https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/blog/friction/201812/mass-radicalization-in-the-usa

Calgary police aim to prevent division, radicalization with first-ever youth program

Extremism Trends in Tajikistan
https://eeradicalization.com/extremism-trends-in-tajikistan/

Review of Destination Paradise. Among the Jihadists of the Maldives

Police in new campaign against radicalization
https://www.newtimes.co.rw/rwanda/police-new-campaign-against-radicalisation
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Cruel Dilemmas Keep ‘ISIS Children’ From Building New Lives
Zvi Bar’el – Haaretz: 4 December 2018

An estimated 17,000 children are roaming the streets of Iraq and Syria. They are easy prey for ISIS and receive no governmental or international assistance. An additional 2,500 live in orphanages and refugee camps.


For more on this theme:

Coalition has no single policy on captured foreign fighters: Canadian defence min
http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/07122018

Gov’t checking report about foreign fighters in Mindanao – Lorenzana

Breaking: Boko Haram terrorists now use drones, foreign fighters – Nigerian Army

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Asia Transnational Threats Forum: Counterterrorism in Asia
Brookings: 4 December 2018

The Center for East Asia Policy Studies at Brookings hosted U.S. and Asian counterterrorism experts to articulate the evolution of the terrorist threat in East Asia.

https://www.brookings.edu/events/asia-transnational-threats-forum-counterterrorism-in-asia/

For more on this theme:

Cyber Command’s anti-ISIS offensive undergoes a change

Europe hasn’t won the war on terror
https://www.politico.eu/article/europe-havent-won-the-war-on-terror/

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launches new framework to strengthen fight against terrorism

Costs and Consequences of Counterterrorism
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/costs-and-consequences-of-counterterrorism

France: Unjust counter-terror measures used to “persecute not prosecute”