CONTENTS

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 Strategy and Statecraft
  Cyber Capacity Building
  Cyberattacks
  Cybercrime

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
  ISIS and Foreign Fighters
  Terrorism Around the World
  Crime and Conflict
  Russia/Ukraine

The Marshall Center Transnational Weekly is a current awareness, information and policy tool for Marshall Center stakeholders to inform them about online publications by think tanks, research institutes and other organizations that deal with transnational subjects. Use of these brief excerpts and links does not reflect the views of or endorsement by the Marshall Center, the U.S. government or the German government. All original content in these compilations is copyrighted unless specifically noted otherwise. All rights to copyrighted items are reserved.
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Vietnam names new president as corruption crackdown shakes up top leadership
*Reuters: 2 March 2022*

Vietnam’s National Assembly named Vo Van Thuong as the country’s new leader in a reshuffle of top officials amid a sweeping anti-graft campaign.


*For more on this theme:*

**Corruption Is Partly to Blame for Turkey’s Earthquake Damage**
https://inkstickmedia.com/corruption-is-partly-to-blame-for-turkeys-earthquake-damage/

**Corruption scandal rocks Spanish politics ahead of elections**

**Stakeholders advocate policy review, use of technology to curb corruption in electricity sector**

**Elite Capture and Corruption of Security Sectors**
https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/02/elite-capture-and-corruption-security-sectors

**Corruption Pervades Police Forces in Australia and the United Kingdom**

**Is Malawi’s Chakwera actively stifling his corruption buster?**
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/is-malawis-chakwera-actively-stifling-his-corruption-buster

**Culture of corruption runs deep within the ANC, and shielding its members from accountability is the party’s choice**

**Lebanon’s Central Bank governor charged with corruption**
https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-business-beirut-lebanon-riad-salameh-c319b05680621a801b9798b-3de49cb0a

**Indonesian palm oil billionaire gets 15 years for corruption**
https://news.mongabay.com/2023/02/indonesian-palm-oil-billionaire-gets-15-years-for-corruption/

**Fishrot: The corruption scandal entwining Namibia and Iceland**
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Fueled by the drug trade, crime is on the rise in Laos
Radio Free Asia: 23 February 2023
Police say the increase is fueled largely by wider drug use and trafficking.

‘Tip of the spear’: Battling the Golden Triangle’s drug lords
Kevin Doyle – AlJazeera: 2 March 2023
A low-intensity but bloody battle is being fought to contain the flow of drugs from the Southeast Asian region known as the Golden Triangle.

For more on this theme:
U.S. requests extradition of Ovidio Guzman, son of ‘El Chapo’, from Mexico – sources

Being Nosy: How squirrels are China’s newest weapons against drugs

Brazil Case Illustrates Struggle With Corrupt Police

How a Priest in Mexico Resists the CJNG’s Incursions

Prescription Pills Laced with Meth, Fentanyl Sold in Northern Mexico Pharmacies:
Report

Guatemala Sees Record Coca, But No Cocaine

Cocaine Trade from Latin America to Africa on the Rise
https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/cocaine-trade-from-latin-america-to-africa-on-the-rise/

‘Ndrangheta, Main European Ally of Latin American Narcotraffickers

Drugs, violence and organized crime in Belgium

Captagon: Assad’s Deadly Drug of Choice Expands to Israel

Drug War Redux: Security Implications of Cross-border Drug Smuggling on Bangladesh
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Jaguars, narcos, illegal loggers: One man’s battle to save a jungle and Maya ruins
Alejandro Maciel and J. Jesús Lemus – Los Angeles Times: 1 March 2023

“I am not leading any imperialist invasion,” archaeologist Richard Hansen said. “We are simply trying to suggest that there is a viable, superior economic alternative for the impoverished communities through controlled, restricted ecotourism.”


For more on this theme:

Anti-logging activist killed in western Mexico
https://apnews.com/article/politics-caribbean-forests-mexico-city-5322370e68a0d2111d05df558d-4cb07

How Satellites Can Help Win the Climate Fight
https://insights.som.yale.edu/insights/how-satellites-can-help-win-the-climate-fight

Illegal gold mining expanding unchecked under junta in Myanmar’s Kachin state

Las Claritas Sindicato
https://insightcrime.org/venezuela-organized-crime-news/las-claritas-sindicato/

To End Illegal Fishing, Countries Must Work Together

Operation Pangolin launches to save world’s most trafficked wild mammal
https://news.fiu.edu/2023/operation-pangolin-launches-to-save-worlds-most-trafficked-wild-mammal

Peru’s Amazon-defending technologies

Illegal Gold Mining Brought Death, Disease, and Violence to the Yanomami in Brazil

The Dystopian Underworld of South Africa’s Illegal Gold Mines

Doubts Remain Over Venezuela’s Efforts to Stop Illegal Mining
https://insightcrime.org/news/doubts-remain-over-venezuelas-efforts-to-stop-illegal-mining/

Residents form barricade vs ‘illegal’ mining operations in Palawan

Advancing interdisciplinary science for disrupting wildlife trafficking networks
https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2208268120

4  Return to Table of Contents
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Transforming internet governance to eliminate online inequalities
United Nations Women: 1 March 2023

The internet’s militaristic origins have also shaped its governance, says Esther Mwema, a digital inequalities expert and artist from Zambia. “That means that the issues affecting women and girls, and how technology can replicate gender inequality, were not at the center,” she says.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Early thoughts on regulating generative AI like ChatGPT
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2023/02/21/early-thoughts-on-regulating-generative-ai-like-chatgpt/

(Bangladesh) 7th Bangladesh School of Internet Governance starts

(Global) Web3: Embracing The Future, Trusting The Present
https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2023/03/01/web3-embracing-the-future-trusting-the-present/?sh=f59851a36207

INTERNET FREEDOM

Internet shutdowns: India saw half of all global gags in 2022
Nandita Banerji – Down to Earth: 1 March 2023

The country topped the charts for blackouts for a fifth consecutive time in 2022, which also had the highest total number of shutdowns worldwide.


For more on this theme:

(Russia) Russia launches AI monitoring tool Oculus to beef up its censorship machine

(China) China blocked 54.3 million items online in 2022, after snitches sent 170 million tips
https://www.theregister.com/2023/03/01/china_54_million_internet_takedowns/

(Global) Twitter Tales: Testing Transatlantic Free Speech Limits
https://cepa.org/article/twitter-tales-testing-transatlantic-free-speech-limits/
FINLAND BRINGS CYBER CAPABILITIES TO NATO

The Nordic country gears up to join the alliance and steps up its cyberdefense with top talent and history.

https://www.afcea.org/signal-media/cyber-edge/finland-brings-cyber-capabilities-nato

For more on this theme:

(Global) Rethinking the future of AI-powered warfare

(Global) A Cyber Persistence Way to Countermeasures
https://www.lawfareblog.com/cyber-persistence-way-countermeasures

(India) The State of India's Digital Economy Report 2023

(Australia) Australia plans to reform cyber security rules, set up agency

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

SpaceX is rolling out Starlink satellite internet in Africa but access is still wildly unaffordable for most people

Marian Selorm Sapah and The Conversation – Fortune: 1 March 2023

It's hard for many to imagine a world without instant, limitless internet access. Some have even argued that it should be considered a basic human right.

https://fortune.com/2023/03/01/starlink-satellite-internet-africa-spacex/

For more on this theme:

(Ghana) The World Ahead — The Future of Cyber Defense in the Armed Forces

(Japan) Tech companies in Japan collaborate for ‘metaverse economic zone’

(U.S.) DOD’s Cyber Mission Depends on Skilled Workforce, Streamlined Tech, Officials Say

(Europe, Russia) European cyber activity puts Russia squarely as the threat and enshrines common approach beyond EU
https://www.army-technology.com/comment/european-cyber-activity-russia/
CYBERATTACKS

Threat intelligence: Why Attributing Cyber-Attacks Matters
Kevin Poireault – InfoSecurity Magazine: 27 February 2023

Cyber attribution is a sensitive subject because of the potential political fallout. Even when experts observed an explosion of malware targeting Ukraine, many did not point the finger directly at the Russian state.


For more on this theme:

(Germany) How a cyber attack paralyzed a county’s administration

(U.S.) Dish confirms cyber attack behind extended outage; data stolen

(U.S.) “Major” cyberattack compromised sensitive U.S. Marshals Service data

(U.S.) Food producer Dole confirms ransomware attack
https://therecord.media/dole-ransomware-attack-north-america/

(U.K.) WH Smith reveals it has been the target of a cyber attack
https://www.cotswoldjournal.co.uk/news/23357588.wh-smith-reveals-target-cyber-attack/

CYBERCRIME

How the Ukraine War Opened a Fault Line in Cybercrime, Possibly Forever
Nate Nelson – Dark Reading: 27 February 2023

Infighting, conscription, emigration. The war has pitted cybercriminals against one another like no other event.

https://www.darkreading.com/analytics/ukraine-war-fault-line-cybercrime-forever

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Global Cybercrime: Federal Agency Efforts to Address International Partners’ Capacity to Combat Crime

(Australia) Australia to establish new coordinator to fight cybercriminals

(Global) Cybercrime spiked in 2022 — and this year could be worse
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

The ISIS Threat in 2023
Aaron Boehm – Manara Magazine: 22 February 2023

Despite the end of its territorial caliphate in 2019 and the death of several of its leaders, the Islamic State group has demonstrated considerable resilience. It continues to operate as a highly active insurgency, particularly in rural Iraq and Syria.

https://manaramagazine.org/2023/02/the-isis-threat-in-2023/

An Enduring Challenge: ISIS-linked Foreigners in Türkiye
International Crisis Group: 28 February 2023

Numerous foreign nationals with ties to the Islamic State group have come to the country since the organization’s defeat in Iraq and Syria. This population presents officials with complex questions, one of which is what threat these individuals might still pose.


For more on this theme:
Taliban Forces Kill Top IS Commanders in Afghanistan

Denmark jails ISIS wife and strips her of citizenship
https://www.politico.eu/article/denmark-jail-isis-bride-strip-citizenship/

Islamic State supports and glorifies banned PFI in ‘Voice of Khurasan’ — details

Interview: Cholpon Orozobekova on Repatriating Foreign Fighters and Their Families
https://eeradicalization.com/interview-cholpon-orozobekova-on-repatriating-foreign-fighters-and-their-families/

ISIS to Take the Lead in Conducting Terror Attacks in Afghanistan:
George Mason Report

ISIL terror threat still high and increasing in conflict zones, Security Council hears

Islamic State Khorasan Releases Book on Uyghur Issue, Decries Islamic World’s Support to China
The earthquakes that hit Anatolia have killed about 50,000 people. One of the questions that has arisen is the provision of humanitarian aid, which has important implications for the spread of extremism.


For more on this theme:

Hezbollah’s Hassan Nasrallah ‘is the voice of Iran, his words have no national scope,’ says leader of Lebanese Forces party
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2257476/middle-east

Recruitment and Radicalization Behind Bars in Bangladesh
https://jamestown.org/program/recruitment-and-radicalization-behind-bars-in-bangladesh/

Power of sport to counter violent extremism amplified at UN

ASIO chief highlights evolving terror threat to Australia
https://www.aspi.au.org/program/asio-chief-highlights-evolving-terror-threat-to-australia/

Africa’s Sahel Needs a Coordinated Plan on Extremist Violence

Is Al-Qaeda Capable of Global Terrorism Any More?

Designation and Moderation of Online Terrorist Content
https://eeradicalization.com/designation-and-moderation-of-online-terrorist-content/

Mona Yacoubian: Ideology is Just One of the Many Drivers of Terrorism

Structural Issues Plague the Fight Against Terrorism in the Maldives

Infighting Within Taliban as Frustration Grows Over International Recognition

Islamist terrorism is rising in the Sahel, but not in Chad – what’s different?

Politics of Claiming Responsibility for Terrorist Attacks in Af-Pak Region
CRIME AND CONFLICT

How legal actions against Russian aggression in Ukraine can serve as a model for other conflicts

Celeste Kmiotek and Lisandra Novo – Atlantic Council: 24 February 2023

For international criminal lawyers, the global response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has been a welcome anomaly. Experts have pointed to improved ways of collaborating between jurisdictions and the overcoming of expected obstacles to secure accountability.


For more on this theme:

GI-TOC: Organized Crime in Ukraine and Russia Split Since the Invasion

Organised crime is infecting African and global supply chains
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/organised-crime-is-infecting-african-and-global-supply-chains

Haiti’s Rural Gangs Threaten Food Production as Hunger Crisis Looms

Calls mount for Russia to face tribunal for aggression against Ukraine
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/calls-mount-for-russia-to-face-tribunal-for-aggression-against-ukraine/

Human Rights Council: Russia responsible for ‘widespread death and destruction’ in Ukraine

‘I Lost Everything’: Russia’s War on Ukraine’s Civilians

Establish a special tribunal for Ukraine on Russia’s crime of aggression

Russia’s Theft of Children in Ukraine Is Genocide

Children from Ukraine are being used in Russia’s pro-war rally

The Stolen Children: How Russia Attempts to Kidnap Ukraine’s Future

Decrying Crimes against Civilians, Calling for Immediate Ceasefire in Ukraine, Speakers Tell Security Council Peace Talks Crucial to Ending Conflict
CRIME AND CONFLICT

For more on this theme:

New UK plan launched to protect women and girls in conflict

Crisis and organized crime: building resilient responses

https://lieber.westpoint.edu/law-crowdsourced-war-democratized-supply-chains-part-i/

Protecting Colombia’s Most Vulnerable on the Road to “Total Peace”

Ukraine: Human Cost of Brutal Russian Invasion

The Darfur conflict revisited: Lessons un-learned

One Year On, Ukraine is a ‘Crime Scene’ — But Ensuring Accountability is Almost Impossible
https://healthpolicy-watch.news/ukraine-is-a-crime-scene/

‘The conflict goes on’: South Sudan’s never-ending war

In Geneva, Nepal pledges justice for the atrocities committed during conflict
https://kathmandupost.com/national/2023/03/01/in-geneva-nepal-pledges-justice-for-the-atrocities-committed-during-conflict

UN special adviser denounces genocide denial in Bosnia

Colombia must do more to stop child recruitment by armed groups — NGO
https://news.yahoo.com/colombia-must-more-stop-child-130254491.html
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Lessons from Ukraine
Brookings: 24 February 2023

Brookings scholars assess Vladimir Putin’s assault, Ukraine’s resistance and the world’s response after one year of war.
https://www.brookings.edu/essay/lessons-from-ukraine/

For more on this theme:
How Close are we Really to Broader Global Conflict?
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/how-close-are-we-really-to-broader-global-conflict

What We Know About Putin in his Own Words
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/fine-print/what-we-know-about-putin-in-his-own-words

Ukraine One Year On – Defying the Odds
https://lieber.westpoint.edu/ukraine-one-year-defying-odds/

How Moscow’s War In Ukraine Is Changing Russian-Central Asian Relations

Putin’s Crimea Mythmaking
https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/putins-crimea-mythmaking

The Myth of a Future Russia
https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/myth-future-russia

Causes and Consequences of Russia’s Year of War in Ukraine
https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/causes-and-consequences-russias-year-of-war-ukraine

One year into the Ukraine war — What does the public think about American involvement in the world?

Africa shouldn’t ignore Russia’s destabilising influence
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/africa-shouldnt-ignore-russias-destabilising-influence

Ukraine’s women are playing a key role in the fight against Russia
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainaalert/ukraines-women-are-playing-a-key-role-in-the-fight-against-russia/

China’s self-serving Ukraine ‘peace plan’

Poland’s Ukrainian rehabilitation

War in Ukraine enters second year with no end in sight
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

How will the war in Ukraine end?

Tech innovation helps Ukraine even the odds against Russia’s military might
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/tech-innovation-helps-ukraine-even-the-odds-against-russias-military-might/

Russia’s invasion one year on: Ukraine is stronger than ever
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/russias-invasion-one-year-on-ukraine-is-stronger-than-ever/

One year, eight world-changing numbers. Quantifying Russia’s war in Ukraine.

The key trends to watch in the Russia-Ukraine war
https://www.npr.org/2023/02/25/1159274649/key-trends-russia-ukraine-war-second-year

U.N. calls for Russia to leave Ukraine

Things Get Ugly if Russia Pulls the Nuclear Trigger in Ukraine

How Russia is losing — and winning — the information war in Ukraine

Putin’s war in Ukraine has exposed Russia’s weaknesses — and brought the West together

The impact of the Ukraine war on food supplies: ‘It could have been so much worse’

Sailing through the storm
https://www.iss.europa.eu/content/sailing-through-storm#_introduction

China weighs sending drones, ammunition to Russia for Ukraine war

Batteries Are Ukraine’s Secret Weapon Against Russia
https://www.wired.com/story/ukraine-russia-power-grid-batteries/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Taiwan sees China taking lessons from Russia's Ukraine invasion

How the Russia-Ukraine conflict became a cultural war

How Resistance To Russia's Invasion Put Ukraine On The Map For The West

War in Ukraine Will End When Russia Knows It's Lost, Kallas Says

Lessons of one year of war in Ukraine — Analysis
https://www.jpost.com/international/article-732803

Analysis: China's role as Ukraine peacemaker in doubt as it ‘deepens' Russia ties

As Russia’s Military Stumbles in Ukraine, Chinese Strategists Are Taking Notes

Why Moldova fears it could be next for Putin

Commemorating the One-Year Mark of the Inhumane and Full-Scale Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Putin and Xi by the Numbers
https://cepa.org/article/putin-and-xi-by-the-numbers/

Sanctions Against Russia Are More Effective Than Skeptics Suggest
https://cepa.org/article/sanctions-against-russia-are-more-effective-than-skeptics-suggest/

Five Big Lessons From Russia's War Against Ukraine
https://cepa.org/article/five-big-lessons-from-war-against-ukraine/

United West, divided from the rest: Global public opinion one year into Russia's war on Ukraine
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Brothers (not yet) in arms: China-Russia relations a year into the war in Ukraine

The Strange War — A Military Analysis of the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict
https://europeanconservative.com/articles/analysis/the-strange-war-a-military-analysis-of-the-russian-ukrainian-conflict/

‘It's all a lie’: Russians are trapped in Putin's parallel universe. But some want out

Ukraine war: how have Vladimir Putin's narratives survived a year of reality checks?
https://theconversation.com/ukraine-war-how-have-vladimir-putins-narratives-survived-a-year-of-reality-checks-199907

Putinology: the art of analyzing the man in the Kremlin

AI Can Tell Us How Russians Feel About the War. Putin Won’t Like the Results.

Ukraine-Russia Conflict: Impact On South Asia — Analysis

Central Asians Pressed To Fight In Ukraine With Russian Troops Returning Home In Coffins
https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-war-central-asians-fighting-russia/32287984.html

One Year Later: Helping Ukraine Win the War and Build Lasting Peace

Ukraine gears up for new phase of cyber war with Russia

Russia's yearlong cyber focus on Ukraine
https://www.axios.com/2023/02/24/russia-cybersecurity-ukraine-war

The Russia-Ukraine cyber war: one year later