

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Spread of coronavirus fuels corruption in Latin America

Joshua Goodman – The Associated Press: 27 May 2020

The COVID-19 health crisis has ushered an unprecedented assertion of power by governments across Latin America and paved the way for abuses in a region already marred by corruption.

<https://apnews.com/a240ff413fb23220aff30c6d6e6aba4c>

We Can't Stop the Coronavirus Unless We Stop Corruption

Alexandra Wrage – Foreign Policy: 12 May 2020

Countries all over the world are throwing money into aid, vaccines, equipment and economic stimulus packages. Only strict measures will keep all that money where it belongs and protected from graft.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/12/coronavirus-pandemic-vaccine-corruption/>

For more on this theme:

Corruption Charges Against ex-head of China's Aircraft Carrier Program

https://www.defenseworld.net/news/26968/Corruption_Charges_Against_ex_head_of_China___s_Aircraft_Carrier_Program#.Xr5Hu0xFyZ8

Pakistan's internal report indicts China for corruption in CPEC power sector

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/business/pakistans-internal-report-indicts-china-for-corruption-in-cpec-power-sector/>

The corruption epidemic in the Guatemalan justice system

<https://theglobalamericans.org/2020/05/the-corruption-epidemic-in-the-guatemalan-justice-system/>

INSIGHT: Conducting Anti-Corruption Investigations During the Pandemic

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/white-collar-and-criminal-law/insight-conducting-anti-corruption-investigations-during-the-pandemic>

Stronger anti- corruption policies needed to end Coronavirus pandemic

<https://guardian.ng/features/media/stronger-anti-corruption-policies-needed-to-end-coronavirus-pandemic%E2%80%A8/>

Tunisia Government Relaunches War on Corruption

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/2285206/tunisia-government-relaunches-war-corruption>

Coronavirus: Saudi Arabia investigates corruption cases related to pandemic

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/coronavirus-saudi-arabia-investigates-corruption-cases-related-to-pandemic-1.1021533>

Italy Arrests Sicily's Coronavirus Tsar on Corruption Charge

<https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/05/21/world/europe/21reuters-italy-corruption-sicily.html>

Lebanon removes banking secrecy rules to fight corruption

<https://apnews.com/9fd38092fba8ca8d72696efe246d512e>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Cartels are hemorrhaging millions of dollars with traffickers forced to take more risks to move cocaine and cash across the US during coronavirus lockdown

Ross Ibbetson – Daily Mail: 25 May 2020

Statewide lockdown orders have disrupted drug traffickers' operations, making it more difficult to launder money and move cash across the border.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8354157/Cartels-hemorrhaging-millions-traffickers-forced-taking-risks-cocaine-cash.html>

Dark web drug supply surges nearly 500% during coronavirus pandemic

Anthony Cuthbertson – Independent: 28 May 2020

Unable to sell illegal drugs on the streets because of lockdowns, a number of drug cartels are now moving to clandestine darknet forums to sell their wares. The number of listings has risen 500%.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/dark-web-drugs-coronavirus-covid-19-a9534236.html>

For more on this theme:

The Pandemic Has Triggered Dramatic Shifts in the Global Criminal Underworld

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/08/coronavirus-drug-cartels-violence-smuggling/>

Many Of Colombia's Ex-Rebel Fighters Rearm And Turn To Illegal Drug Trade

<https://www.npr.org/2020/05/19/855567659/many-of-colombias-ex-rebel-fighters-rearm-and-turn-to-illegal-drug-trade>

French lockdown hit drug trafficking and boosted prices

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-drugs/french-lockdown-hit-drug-trafficking-and-boosted-prices-idUSKBN22R1Q2>

Changes In Opioid Supply Create New Risks As Stay-At-Home Rules Ease

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/05/18/854729610/changes-in-opioid-supply-create-new-risks-as-stay-at-home-rules-ease>

UK gangs could recruit more child drug mules as lockdown lifts

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-britain-slavery-drugs-trfn/uk-gangs-could-recruit-more-child-drug-mules-as-lockdown-lifts-idUSKBN22R1RV>

Is Southeast Asia's drug trade too big to control?

<https://www.dw.com/en/is-southeast-asias-drug-trade-too-big-to-control/a-53500062>

Moroccan smugglers embark on long new route to ship drugs to Europe

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-morocco-crime/moroccan-smugglers-embark-on-long-new-route-to-ship-drugs-to-europe-idUSKBN22U1RS>

What Lockdown? World's Cocaine Traffickers Sniff at Movement Restrictions

<https://www.occrp.org/en/coronavirus/what-lockdown-worlds-cocaine-traffickers-sniff-at-movement-restrictions>

Human Rights Watch Details Harm to Filipino Children from Drug War

<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/human-rights-watch-details-harm-filipino-children-drug-war>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

New Study Says Deforestation Could Help Viruses Jump From Animals To Humans, Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Leslie Ovalle – WLRN: 19 May 2020

Habitat destruction is bringing humans closer to animals, increasing the risk of transmitted diseases.

<https://www.wlrn.org/post/new-study-says-deforestation-could-help-viruses-jump-animals-humans-amid-covid-19-pandemic>

Wildlife poaching on the rise in Africa due to Covid-19

Damilola Ekpo – Ventures: 24 May 2020

Poachers are capitalizing on the scarcity of people in the animal parks to pursue illegal activities.

<http://venturesafrica.com/wildlife-poaching-on-the-rise-in-africa-due-to-covid-19/>

For more on this theme:

EU's live export trade puts welfare of millions of animals at risk – report

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/13/eus-live-export-trade-puts-welfare-of-millions-of-animals-at-risk-report>

Stop The Wildlife Trade: EU biodiversity plan to crack down on illegal wildlife trade

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/stop-wildlife-trade-illegal-eu-strategy-2020-biodiversity-crisis-coronavirus-a9523966.html>

China legislators take on wildlife trade, but traditional medicine likely to be exempt

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-china-wildlife/china-legislators-take-on-wildlife-trade-but-traditional-medicine-likely-to-be-exempt-idUSKBN22X065>

South Africa traffics thousands of endangered wild animals to China in 'corrupt and growing' trade, investigation finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/china-wildlife-trade-coronavirus-south-africa-illegal-rhino-lion-bat-ems-a9513226.html>

Survey Finds Overwhelming Support for Closing Illegal Wildlife Markets

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/survey-finds-overwhelming-support-for-closing-illegal-wildlife-markets/>

The wildlife trade encompasses all major branches of the biological tree of life

<https://phys.org/news/2020-05-wildlife-encompasses-major-biological-tree.html>

Why the wildlife trade convention failed to prevent Covid-19

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-27-why-the-wildlife-trade-convention-failed-to-prevent-covid-19/>

Poaching spikes amid lockdown in South Asia

<https://www.thethirdpole.net/2020/05/25/poaching-spikes-amid-lockdown-in-south-asia/>

The EU is trading in dead tigers

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/brussels-behind-the-scenes/113074/the-eu-is-trading-in-dead-tigers/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The Desire to Thrive Regardless of Risk

International Organization for Migration (IOM) – April 2020

A new study finds that many Ethiopian migrants headed to the Middle East are unaware of the dangers, according to the IOM. The migrants face the likelihood of experiencing hunger, dehydration, and waterborne and gastrointestinal diseases in transit, along with the possibility of being abused.

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IOM%20RDH%20Eastern%20Route%20Research_Background%20Analysis_Obock%20Djibouti_0.pdf

For more on this theme:

Migration is a safety net during climate change disasters

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/migration-is-a-safety-net-during-climate-change-disasters>

How to Help Refugees and Host Countries Combat COVID-19

<https://www.rand.org/blog/2020/05/how-to-help-refugees-and-host-countries-combat-covid.html>

The Ceaseless Struggle of Afghan Migrants

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/the-ceaseless-struggle-of-afghan-migrants/>

COVID-19: Irregular migrants face greater risks – Group

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/covid-19-irregular-migrants-face-greater-risks-group/>

ASEAN must act to save Rohingya refugees in the Bay of Bengal

<https://news.trust.org/item/20200525164836-i3wm6/>

OPINION: Tolerance of trafficking protects Nigeria's trade in humans

<https://news.trust.org/item/20200528075111-ib3zo>

Closed borders give rise to new wave of trafficking in Cambodia

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-cambodia-slavery-t/closed-borders-give-rise-to-new-wave-of-trafficking-in-cambodia-idUSKBN2341SR>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Global Health Security: COVID-19 and Its Impacts – Cyber Attacks on Healthcare Systems: Infrastructure Protection Critical

Tan E Guang Eugene – S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies: 22 May 2020

COVID-19 arguably represents the best opportunity for United Nations member states to come together to work within agreed cyber norms to combat a common foe.

<https://www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-publication/cens/global-health-security-covid-19-and-its-impacts-cyber-attacks-on-healthcare-systems-infrastructure-protection-critical/#.XtBz8OxFy3A>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Cyber Stability, Conflict Prevention, and Capacity Building

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/cyber-stability-conflict-prevention-and-capacity-building>

(Global) Data and genetic privacy join proposed privileges for nonhumans, robots, and nature

<https://blogs.sciencemag.org/books/2020/05/27/the-coming-good-society/>

(Global) Business and the State: Together into the Brave “Cyber World”?

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2020/05/24/business-and-the-state-together-into-the-brave-cyber-world/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

The Lawfare Podcast: Gabrielle Lim on the Life and Death of Malaysia’s Anti-Fake News Act

Jen Patja Howell – Lawfare: 28 May 2020

Malaysia’s passage of the Anti-Fake News Act – and how Malaysian civil society pushed back against it – is a useful case study in how governments use language to appear they are countering disinformation when in fact they are clamping down on free expression. The way democratic governments talk about disinformation has global effects.

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/lawfare-podcast-gabrielle-lim-life-and-death-malysias-anti-fake-news-act>

For more on this theme:

(India) How India’s Elite Competition Poisoned the Internet

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/how-indias-elite-competition-poisoned-the-internet/>

(India, Kashmir) Indian government’s 2G restrictions in Kashmir fail to curb online extremism

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/indian-governments-2g-restrictions-in-kashmir-fail-to-curb-online-extremism-66861/>

(Europe, Global) Governing online hate speech: new study recommends victim-sensitive approach and warns against over-removing of content

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/inclusion-and-antidiscrimination/-/governing-online-hate-speech-new-study-recommends-victim-sensitive-approach-decentralised-regulatory-models-warns-against-over-removing-of-content>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Report finds massive drop in Canadians' willingness to disclose personal information for free online services

GlobeNewswire: 28 May 2020

The Canadian Internet Registration Authority released the 2020 “Canadians Deserve a Better Internet” report, which shows Canadians’ growing anxiety about cyber security issues. The report found a significant drop in their willingness to disclose personal information for better content and services online.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/report-finds-massive-drop-canadians-110010323.html>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Cybersecurity Leadership Principles: Lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic to prepare for the new normal

<https://www.weforum.org/reports/cybersecurity-leadership-principles-lessons-learnt-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-to-prepare-for-the-new-normal>

(The Netherlands) Grandmother's Refusal to Remove Photos From Facebook Tests Privacy Law

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/22/business/facebook-privacy-law-grandmother.html>

(Hong Kong, China) Hong Kong demand for VPNs surges on heels of China's plan for national security laws

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hongkong-protests-vpn/hong-kong-demand-for-vpns-surges-on-heels-of-chinas-plan-for-national-security-laws-idUSKBN23205C>

CYBER STATECRAFT

Could the German International Arrest Warrant Against a GRU Hacker Prompt European Sanctions?

Julia Schuetze – Council on Foreign Relations: 26 May 2020

Germany’s federal prosecutor has issued an international arrest warrant for suspected GRU hacker Dmitriy Sergeyevich Badin. This hints at the use of the European Union’s Cyber Sanctions Regime to punish Russia for its cyber operations against EU member states.

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/could-german-international-arrest-warrant-against-gru-hacker-prompt-european-sanctions>

For more on this theme:

(Germany) Germany confronts Russian ambassador over cyberattack

<https://apnews.com/fabe13acc73789b39df607b3814f2f66?mid=1#cid=1073936>

(Canada) Canada taking global role in countering electoral interference in cyberspace

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-canada-taking-global-role-in-countering-electoral-interference-in/>

(India) India's Digitalization: Big Data is the New Oil

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2020/05/26/indias-digitalization-big-data-is-the-new-oil/>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

The Increasing Role of Azerbaijan as a Regional Digital Hub

Orkhan Baghirov – The Jamestown Foundation: 26 May 2020

By pursuing domestic and transborder telecommunications projects, Azerbaijan is looking to add the role of regional digital center to its function as an important hub for energy and transport.

<https://jamestown.org/program/the-increasing-role-of-azerbaijan-as-a-regional-digital-hub/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) There is a vast and untapped pool of cyber talent hiding in non-IT degrees

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/untapped-cyber-talent-it/>

(U.S.) The Air Force's Platform One Team Thought It Was Agile. Then COVID-19 Hit.

<https://www.nextgov.com/emerging-tech/2020/05/air-forces-platform-one-team-thought-it-was-agile-then-covid-19-hit/165676/>

(U.S.) 5 steps to get the internet to all Americans

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/5-steps-to-get-the-internet-to-all-americans/>

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Google highlights Indian 'hack-for-hire' companies in new TAG report

Catalin Cimpanu – ZDNet: 27 May 2020

The Google Threat Analysis Group published its inaugural quarterly report. It flagged two trends: first, the rising scene of hack-for-hire companies in India, and second, the rising number of political-influence operations being carried out by governments around the world.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/google-highlights-indian-hack-for-hire-companies-in-new-tag-report/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) FTC warns college students of scams relating to coronavirus checks

<https://thehill.com/policy/finance/499787-ftc-warns-college-students-of-scams-relating-to-coronavirus-checks>

(U.S., Russia) NSA warns of new Sandworm attacks on email servers

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/nsa-warns-of-new-sandworm-attacks-on-email-servers/>

(Global) Microsoft warns of PonyFinal ransomware attacks

<https://securityboulevard.com/2020/05/microsoft-warns-of-ponyfinal-ransomware-attacks/>

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Australia is painting a big red cyber target on its critical infrastructure

Carlo Minassian – Computer Weekly: 28 May 2020

Australia's critical infrastructure is particularly vulnerable to cyber attacks because of a lack of investment in cyber security. These aging systems are now linked to online enterprise systems, making them potential targets.

<https://www.computerweekly.com/opinion/Australia-is-painting-a-big-red-cyber-target-on-its-critical-infrastructure>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Bans on Foreign Equipment in U.S. Critical Infrastructure

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/bans-foreign-equipment-us-critical-infrastructure>

(Israel, Iran) Israeli cyber chief: Major attack on water systems thwarted

<https://apnews.com/63c081ec091f4c1e3f438ee35243efe0?mid=1#cid=1071548>

(Russia) Kremlin expands online voting possibilities amid COVID-19 fears

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/kremlin-expands-online-voting-possibilities-amid-covid-19-fears-71404>

NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

The Essential Skills of Evaluating and Communicating Risk

Monica Todros – Recorded Future: 25 May 2020

Information technology risk analyst James Dawson shares his views on the importance of evaluating risk with open eyes and a level head. He emphasizes the value in taking risks in the workplace and shares his thoughts on threat intelligence.

<https://www.recordedfuture.com/podcast-episode-160/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) The Cyberlaw Podcast: Has Apple opened a new legal front against the FBI — without telling it?

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/cyberlaw-podcast-has-apple-opened-new-legal-front-against-fbi—without-telling-it>

(Global) Cyber Security Today

<https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/cyber-security-today-more-calls-for-an-end-to-cyberattacks-on-healthcare-watch-for-android-security-update-and-alert-to-discord-users/431361>

(U.S., China) Tech and Cyber Competition with China

<https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/caveat/30/notes>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Rebuilt Islamic State Growing 'More Brazen' in Syria, Iraq

Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 28 May 2020

“ISIS has been working to rebuild its operational capacity,” a U.S. counterterrorism official told Voice of America. “They’ve made incremental, localized improvements to their operating capacity in primarily eastern Syria over the course of several months.”

<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/rebuilt-islamic-state-growing-more-brazen-syria-iraq>

Islamic State's Rejig And Resurgence In South Asia – Analysis

Shweta Desai – Eurasia Review: 25 May 2020

ISIS has claimed attacks over the past year in every country in South Asia that has a dominant Muslim population. The group is seemingly expanding and thriving in the region.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/25052020-islamic-states-rejig-and-resurgence-in-south-asia-analysis/>

For more on this theme:

Counter terrorism police fear ISIS cells are being reactivated to plot attacks across Europe after second terror arrest in Spain

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8302571/Counter-terrorism-police-fear-ISIS-cells-reactivated-plot-attacks-Europe.html>

Data on Islamic State Attacks Could be Masking Growing Problem, Some Fear

<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/data-islamic-state-attacks-could-be-masking-growing-problem-some-fear>

Recent Islamic State Attacks Demonstrate its Durability and Resilience

<https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/soufan-center/recent-islamic-state-attacks-demonstrate-its-durability-and-resilience>

The Islamic State and Coronavirus, Time for a Comeback?

<https://www.ispionline.it/en/publicazione/islamic-state-and-coronavirus-time-comeback-26166>

How ISIS is exploiting the coronavirus pandemic

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/how-isis-is-exploiting-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

Pentagon warns of potential 'mass breakout' of thousands of ISIS fighters in Syria

<https://taskandpurpose.com/news/isis-prisoner-escape-syria>

No, ISIS Isn't Resurging Amid the Coronavirus Pandemic

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/05/no-isis-isnt-resurging-amid-coronavirus-pandemic/165401/>

UN team reports new evidence against Islamic State in Iraq

<https://apnews.com/e95bf8a63907267268b0ce7844d56243>

Mozambique Wants Africa's Help to Fight Islamic State Insurgency

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-05-19/mozambique-insurgency-threatens-southern-africa-mnangagwa-says>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al Qaeda and ISIS Had a Truce in Africa — Until They Didn't

Jacob Zenn and Colin P. Clarke – Foreign Policy: 26 May 2020

The Sahel region was inching toward stability, but conflict between local jihadi groups threatens to bring back chaos.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/26/al-qaeda-isis-west-africa-sahel-stability-jihadi-groups/>

How the coronavirus increases terrorism threats in the developing world

Nisha Bellinger and Kyle Kattelman – The Conversation: 26 May 2020

The authors' recently published research identifies a potential link between the pandemic and an uptick in violence. They found that food insecurity makes citizens angry at their governments, and this anger gives terrorist groups opportunities to recruit.

<https://theconversation.com/how-the-coronavirus-increases-terrorism-threats-in-the-developing-world-137466>

For more on this theme:

Why Are the Taliban Wooing a Persecuted Afghanistan Minority Group?

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/why-are-the-taliban-wooing-a-persecuted-afghanistan-minority-group/>

Fresh Jihadist Violence Hits Northern Mozambique

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/05/29/jihadist-violence-mozambique/>

Sri Lanka's fight against LTTE terrorism: In retrospect

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2020/05/29/sri-lankas-fight-against-ltte-terrorism-in-retrospect/>

50 Percent Increase in Domestic Islamist Extremism Arrests and Plots in 2019, According to New ADL Data

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/50-percent-increase-in-domestic-islamist-extremism-arrests-and-plots-in-2019-according-to-new-adl-data/>

How is COVID-19 restructuring Indonesia's militant landscape?

<https://www.aseantoday.com/2020/05/how-is-covid-19-restructuring-indonesias-militant-landscape/>

Victims of Boko Haram feel like strangers when they return home to southern Nigeria

<https://theconversation.com/victims-of-boko-haram-feel-like-strangers-when-they-return-home-to-southern-nigeria-138874>

BOKO HARAM: 603 repentant fighters set to rejoin society

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/05/boko-haram-603-repentant-fighters-set-to-rejoin-society/>

Generation Jihad Ep. 11: An Al Qaeda Sleeper Agent in Pensacola

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2020/05/generation-jihad-ep-11-an-al-qaeda-sleeper-agent-in-pensacola.php>

Taliban 'reluctant to publicly break with al Qaeda,' Inspector General reports

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2020/05/taliban-reluctant-to-publicly-break-with-al-qaeda-inspector-general-reports.php>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

The COVID-19 Pandemic and Response on Violent Extremist Recruitment and Radicalisation

William Avis – University of Birmingham: 4 May 2020

This study provides evidence of the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and response on violent extremist recruitment and radicalization.

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/808_COVID19%20and_Violent_Extremism.pdf

For more on this theme:

How Indonesia Can Address the Growing Number of Female Extremists

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/how-indonesia-can-address-the-growing-number-of-female-extremists/>

'Jihad' as a Universalist Project in Comparative Perspective

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/jihad-universalist-project-comparative-perspective>

The Internet and Lone Wolf Terrorism in India

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/the-internet-and-lone-wolf-terrorism-in-india-66845/>

Canadian-led study will look at how people with autism might end up in online hate groups

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/canadian-led-study-will-look-at-how-people-with-autism-might-end-up-in-online-hate-groups-1.4957984>

Coronavirus claims life of Sweden's leading terror recruiter

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/coronavirus-claims-life-of-sweden-s-leading-terror-recruiter-1.1025105>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

How Australia Is Countering China With Pacific Soft Power

Jamie Smyth – OZY: 27 May 2020

Australian television shows such as *The Voice*, *Border Security*, *Neighbours* and *MasterChef* will be broadcast to Pacific island nations under an Australian government project at a time when China's diplomatic and media presence is on the rise in the region.

<https://www.ozy.com/around-the-world/australia-pacific-islands-china-soft-power-tv/331850/>

For more on this theme:

Exporting Authoritarianism

<https://www.cfr.org/podcasts/exporting-authoritarianism>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

Iran and Hezbollah's Pre-Operational Modus Operandi in the West – Part One

Ioan Pop and Mitchell D. Silber – The Cipher Brief: 27 May 2020

With information pulled from court documents and open source reporting, the authors shed light on ways that Iran and its proxy groups have engaged in regional escalations after Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani's death in January and after the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Their research deals in particular with intelligence gathering and surveillance activities.

<https://www.thecipherbrief.com/iran-and-hezbollahs-pre-operational-modus-operandi-in-the-west-part-one>

Iran and Hezbollah's Pre-Operational Modus Operandi in the West – Part Two

<https://www.thecipherbrief.com/iran-and-hezbollahs-pre-operational-modus-operandi-in-the-west-part-two>

For more on this theme:

From Beirut to Bangui: inside Iran's plan to take proxy wars to Africa

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/africa/from-beirut-to-bangui-inside-iran-s-plan-to-take-proxy-wars-to-africa-1.1022078>

Why Are Russian Mercenaries Beginning to Flee Libya?

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/why-are-russian-mercenaries-beginning-flee-libya-157706>

Turkey and Russia Are at War, and Libya's the Loser

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-05-29/turkey-and-russia-are-at-war-but-libya-s-the-loser>

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

CURRENT STATE OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Why the coronavirus puzzle still hasn't been solved

Jackson Ryan – Cnet: 28 May 2020

Tracing the source of the COVID-19 pandemic is proving to be more difficult than anticipated.

<https://www.cnet.com/features/why-the-coronavirus-puzzle-still-hasnt-been-solved/>

For more on this theme:

Coronavirus Spread Speeds Up, Even as Nations Reopen

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/28/world/coronavirus-live.html>

The World Is Still Far From Herd Immunity for Coronavirus

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/05/28/upshot/coronavirus-herd-immunity.html>

U.S. data release spurs new tools in fight against COVID-19

<https://share.america.gov/u-s-data-release-spurs-new-tools-for-covid-19-fight/>

How having cancer can put Covid-19 patients at higher risk of dying

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/28/health/cancer-covid-19-mortality-risk-study/index.html>

Around three-in-ten Americans are very confident they could fact-check news about COVID-19

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/05/28/around-three-in-ten-americans-are-very-confident-they-could-fact-check-news-about-covid-19/>

Rapid COVID-19 vaccine development

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/368/6494/945>

Its Coronavirus Caseload Soaring, India Is Reopening Anyway

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/29/world/asia/coronavirus-india-lockdown.html>

Researchers Use Aerosol Chamber To Study How Sunlight Could Slow Spread Of COVID-19

<https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2020/05/28/department-of-homeland-security-biodefense-research-laboratory-aerosol-chamber-study/>

CORONAVIRUS, NATIONAL SECURITY AND

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

COVID-19 Risks Outlook: A Preliminary Mapping and its Implications

World Economic Forum: 19 May 2020

The World Economic Forum's "COVID-19 Risks Outlook" says cyber attacks and data fraud are considered the most likely technological risks of COVID-19.

<https://www.weforum.org/reports/covid-19-risks-outlook-a-preliminary-mapping-and-its-implications>

CORONAVIRUS, NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS — CONTINUED

Assad Attempts to Weaponize COVID-19 in Syria

Will Todman – The Hill: 27 May 2020

As Syria opens up, President Bashar Assad has tried to ensure that those in opposition-held areas are more vulnerable to the pandemic. He is seeking to weaponize COVID-19 to help win his civil war.

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/498943-assad-attempts-to-weaponize-covid-19-in-syria>

For more on this theme:

The end of Europe's Chinese dream

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-end-of-europes-chinese-dream/>

Pandemic Adds New Threat for Rohingyas in Myanmar

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/pandemic-adds-new-threat-for-rohingyas-in-myanmar/>

Scaling Up African Pharmaceutical Manufacturing in a Time of COVID-19

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/scaling-african-pharmaceutical-manufacturing-time-covid-19>

Online Event: Humanitarian Operations During COVID-19: A Conversation with Michelle Nunn of CARE USA

<https://www.csis.org/events/online-event-humanitarian-operations-during-covid-19-conversation-michelle-nunn-care-usa>

Coronavirus is tilting the China–Russia relationship in Beijing's favour

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/coronavirus-is-tilting-the-china-russia-relationship-in-beijings-favour/>

Virtual Roundtable: Peacekeeping Operations and the Pursuit of Inclusive Peace During the Coronavirus Pandemic

<https://www.cfr.org/event/virtual-roundtable-peacekeeping-operations-and-pursuit-inclusive-peace-during-coronavirus>

UT national security expert: COVID-19 accelerating some global trends, changing the direction of others

<https://news.utexas.edu/2020/05/28/ut-national-security-expert-covid-19-accelerating-some-global-trends-changing-the-direction-of-others/>

Op-ed: The coronavirus pandemic should change the way we look at national security

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/28/coronavirus-pandemic-should-change-the-way-we-look-at-national-security.html>

US dependence on Chinese imports posing potential threat on national security, think tank says

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/us-dependence-on-chinese-imports-posing-potential-threat-on-national-security-think-tank-says>

This disaster season, 'everything is complicated by COVID-19'

<https://gcn.com/articles/2020/05/28/covid-complicates-disaster-response.aspx>

CORONAVIRUS AND DISINFORMATION

Coronavirus: Inside the pro-China network targeting the US, Hong Kong and an exiled tycoon

Benjamin Strick, Olga Robinson and Shayan Sardarizadeh – BBC: 28 May 2020

Hundreds of fake or hijacked social media accounts have been pushing pro-Chinese government messages about the coronavirus pandemic on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, a BBC investigation has found.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-52657434>

For more on this theme:

Why coronavirus misinformation is so hard to fight

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/podcasts/special-series/why-coronavirus-misinformation-is-so-hard-to-fight>

Russia during COVID-19: Information warfare, digital passes and digital protest

<https://www.medianama.com/2020/05/223-russia-covid10-information-warfare/>

Coronavirus: The human cost of virus misinformation

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-52731624>

Fresh concerns raised over #COVID-19 disinformation

<https://www.eureporter.co/frontpage/2020/05/29/fresh-concerns-raised-over-covid-19-disinformation/>

EU's diplomatic service launches probe over China disinformation leak

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/05/27/eus-diplomatic-service-launches-probe-over-china-disinformation-leak-284694>

COVID-19 disinformation being spread by Russia, China, say experts

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/covid-coronavirus-russia-china-1.5583961>

COVID-19 Conspiracy Theorists Have Found A New Home On TikTok

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/laurenstrapagiel/pandemic-conspiracy-theorists-disinformation-tiktok>