

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

- Corruption
- Drug Trafficking
- Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources
- Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

- Internet Freedom
- Privacy and Security
- Cyber Statecraft
- Cyber Capacity Building
- Cyber Attacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
- Noteworthy Podcasts
- Mass Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

- ISIS and Foreign Fighters
- Terrorism Around the World
- Radicalization and Messaging
- Irregular Warfare: Soft Power
- Irregular Warfare: Proxy Forces
- Irregular Warfare: Disinformation and Malign Influence

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

- Current State of the Coronavirus
- Coronavirus, National Security and International Organizations

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

The Implications of the Najib Razak Case

Joshua Kurlantzick – Council on Foreign Relations: 28 July 2020

Malaysia's former leader, Najib Razak, was found guilty of corruption and sentenced to 12 years in prison in the first trial over a multibillion-dollar scandal at the government-run strategic company 1MDB. But with Najib's political allies back in power and an ongoing crackdown on the forces pushing for accountability, the case is anything but closed.

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/implications-najib-razak-case>

EU COVID-19 rescue package: what safeguards are in place against corruption?

Sandor Zsiors and Jack Parrock – euronews: 28 July 2020

An unprecedented amount of money, 1.8 trillion euros, has been earmarked by European Union leaders to revive the bloc's economies over the next seven years. However, with such a large pot, there are concerns the fund could be open to fraud.

<https://www.euronews.com/2020/07/28/eu-covid-19-rescue-package-what-safeguards-are-in-place-against-corruption>

For more on this theme:

How parts of the media in Ghana aid – rather than fight – corruption

<https://theconversation.com/how-parts-of-the-media-in-ghana-aid-rather-than-fight-corruption-142678>

ASEAN strives to navigate Covid, corruption

<https://asiatimes.com/2020/07/asean-strives-to-navigate-covid-corruption/>

Guatemala's New Anti-Corruption Body: a Mere Smokescreen?

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/guatemala-corruption-secretariat/>

Zimbabwe sharpens crackdown ahead of anti-corruption protest

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-zimbabwe-sharpens-crackdown-ahead-of-anti-corruption-protest/>

Iran Parliament Decision To Distribute \$600 Million 'Free Asphalt' Ticket To Corruption

<https://en.radiofarda.com/a/iran-parliament-decision-to-distribute-600-million-free-asphalt-ticket-to-corruption/30742702.html>

Malawi's new president vows to 'clear the rubble of corruption'

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/jul/23/malawis-new-president-vows-to-clear-the-rubble-of-corruption>

The evolution of the EITI and next steps for tackling extractive industries corruption

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/07/30/the-evolution-of-the-eiti-and-next-steps-for-tackling-extractive-industries-corruption/>

South Africa warns COVID-19 corruption puts 'lives at risk'

<https://apnews.com/ba586b6bebf961e999046a9dd28ab6fd>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

More than 1000 children trafficked into UK drugs trade last year

Donna Rachel Edmunds – The Jerusalem Post: 31 July 2020

More than 1,100 children were trafficked into the United Kingdom's drug trade in 2019, new Home Office figures reveal, according to data obtained by the drug-reform charity Transform.

<https://www.jpost.com/international/more-than-1000-children-trafficked-into-uk-drugs-trade-last-year-637009>

EU Agenda and Action Plan on Drugs 2021-2025

European Commission: 24 July 2020

The illicit drug market has an estimated retail value of 30 billion euros per year in Europe alone. The social cost on lives, livelihoods and public health is untold. Drug availability and production in the European Union remains high, and in our interconnected world, the involvement of organized criminal groups means that the drug phenomenon is increasingly global. This requires better coordinated action to address the security and health implications of drug trafficking and drug use to better protect Europeans.

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20200724_com-2020-606-commission-communication_en.pdf

For more on this theme:

Fentanyl and geopolitics Controlling opioid supply from China

https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/8_Felbab-Brown_China_final.pdf

Laundering Colombia's drug money I Part 1: how to do it

<https://colombiareports.com/laundrying-colombias-drug-money-part-1-how-to-do-it/>

Laundering Colombia's drug money I Part 2: how to stop it

<https://colombiareports.com/laundrying-colombias-drug-money-part-2-how-to-stop-it/>

Mexican minister quits after clash over navy's anti-drugs role

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-politics/mexican-minister-quits-after-clash-over-navys-anti-drugs-role-idUSKCN2402IG>

New Wiz drug targets South Africa's youth

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/new-wiz-drug-targets-south-africas-youth>

Why Armed Groups in Latin America Are Enforcing COVID-19 Lockdowns

<https://time.com/5870054/coronavirus-latin-america-armed-groups/>

In Africa, Drugs Find Way Around Coronavirus Restrictions

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/africa-drugs-find-way-around-coronavirus-restrictions>

Unemployment caused by coronavirus pandemic may be accelerating drug overdose deaths

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/lifestyle/unemployment-caused-by-coronavirus-pandemic-may-be-accelerating-drug-overdose-deaths>

Illegal Drug Trade Thrives amid COVID-19

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/videos/20200720202134688/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Brazilian Amazon drained of millions of wild animals by criminal networks: Report

Sharon Guynup – Mongabay: 28 July 2020

Millions of wild animals are trafficked domestically and out of Brazil every year, a new report has found. The authors warn that a lack of record keeping on the part of authorities means the country's illegal wildlife trade is not taken seriously enough, with grave consequences for biodiversity.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/07/brazilian-amazon-drained-of-millions-of-wild-animals-by-criminal-networks-report/>

Study finds dangerous mercury levels in Amazon fish

Agence France-Presse: 30 July 2020

A new study reveals that almost a third of the fish in Amapa, Brazil, contains dangerous levels of mercury due to illegal gold mining, leaving them dangerous for human consumption. The study claimed that 77.6% of carnivorous fish, 20% of omnivores, and 2.4% of herbivores contained mercury that “surpassed safety limits.”

<https://www.deccanherald.com/science-and-environment/study-finds-dangerous-mercury-levels-in-amazon-fish-867390.html>

For more on this theme:

Coronavirus: South Asia sees rise in poaching during lockdowns

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3966528>

Fifth of Brazilian beef exports to EU linked to illegal deforestation

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2249083-fifth-of-brazilian-beef-exports-to-eu-linked-to-illegal-deforestation/>

The DR Congo group fighting deforestation with fuel-saving balls of clay

<https://observers.france24.com/en/20200716-dr-congo-fighting-deforestation-save-fuel-clay-ball>

Eliminate transnational organised crime in fishing industry

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/academia/2020/07/11/eliminate-transnational-organized-crime-in-fishing-industry.html>

The Importance of Whistleblowers in Combatting Wildlife Trafficking

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/importance-whistleblowers-combatting-wildlife-trafficking-0>

Qatar- Team Lioness: Kenya's women rangers risk their lives to save wildlife

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/668637/Team-Lioness-Kenya-s-women-rangers-risk-their-lives-to-save-wildlife>

Vietnam bans wildlife trade to curb risk of pandemics

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-vietnam-wildlife-ban/vietnam-bans-wildlife-trade-to-curb-risk-of-pandemics-idUSKCN24POEP>

Mountain gorillas face extinction due to threats of both coronavirus and poaching

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/coronavirus-mountain-gorillas-poaching-uganda-wildlife-crime-trade-a9633586.html>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

East African human trafficking rings expand their operations

Mohamed Daghar – Institute for Security Studies: 30 July 2020

Evidence suggests that trafficking from Africa to the Middle East is being run entirely by East Africans.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/east-african-human-trafficking-rings-expand-their-operations>

On YouTube, vloggers are teaching people how to migrate illegally

Amine Ghoulidi and Sophia Akram – Wired: 31 July 2020

Would-be migrants are watching YouTube to learn how to illegally migrate to Europe. The videos can give detailed operational information about crossing into Europe, but they also highlight the dangers of the journey.

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/youtube-migration-videos>

For more on this theme:

Will coronavirus thwart global efforts to end human trafficking?

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-global-trafficking-trfn/will-coronavirus-thwart-global-efforts-to-end-human-trafficking-idUSKCN24V00V>

Virtual Roundtable: Modern Slavery and COVID-19

<https://www.cfr.org/event/virtual-roundtable-modern-slavery-and-covid-19>

The COVID-19 Risk for Refugees

<https://www.cfr.org/explainer-video/covid-19-risk-refugees>

New Zealand makes first conviction for both human trafficking and slavery after landmark trial

<https://www.jurist.org/news/2020/07/new-zealand-makes-first-conviction-for-both-human-trafficking-and-slavery-after-landmark-trial/>

77 percent - Legal loopholes allow human trafficking to thrive

<https://www.dw.com/en/77-percent-legal-loopholes-allow-human-trafficking-to-thrive/av-54365414>

Know your rights: new “passport” for human trafficking victims in Tunisia

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/know-your-rights-new-passport-for-human-trafficking-victims-in-tunisia>

The technology used to facilitate human trafficking can also be used to fight it

<https://www.equaltimes.org/the-technology-used-to-facilitate>

Amid lockdowns, human traffickers move to digital

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/07/31/amid-lockdowns-human-traffickers-move-to-digital/>

Virus adds to risk for trafficked migrants in war-torn Yemen

<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/26306/virus-adds-to-risk-for-trafficked-migrants-in-war-torn-yemen>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET FREEDOM

Internet shutdowns in Africa threaten democracy and development

Tomiswa Ilori and Magnus Killander – The Conversation: 26 July 2020

A recent research paper by one of the authors examined the effect of network disruptions on human rights and democratic development in Sub-Saharan Africa and found that both are negatively affected by internet shutdowns.

<https://theconversation.com/internet-shutdowns-in-africa-threaten-democracy-and-development-142868>

For more on this theme:

(Rwanda) How does Rwanda's genocide ideology law regulate speech online?

<https://advox.globalvoices.org/2020/07/20/how-does-rwandas-genocide-ideology-law-regulate-speech-online/>

(Russia) Russian Media Fights for Survival Under Putin

<https://www.voanews.com/press-freedom/russian-media-fights-survival-under-putin>

(Pakistan) Pakistan: Church Resists Censorship By Internet Police

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/29072020-pakistan-church-resists-censorship-by-internet-police/>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Google victory in German top court over right to be forgotten

Matthias von Hein – Deutsche Welle: 27 July 2020

A German court has sided with Google and rejected requests to wipe entries from search results. The cases hinged on whether the right to be forgotten outweighed the public's right to know.

<https://www.dw.com/en/google-right-to-be-forgotten/a-54326877>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Data Privacy During Pandemics

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA365-1.html

(Australia) Australian regulator says Google misled users over data privacy issues

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-google-australia/australian-regulator-says-google-misled-users-over-data-privacy-issues-idUSKCN24R0VQ>

(Australia, Global) The privacy paradox: we claim we care about our data, so why don't our actions match?

<https://theconversation.com/the-privacy-paradox-we-claim-we-care-about-our-data-so-why-dont-our-actions-match-143354>

(U.S.) 74% of Internet Users Feel They Have No Control Over the Personal Information Collected on Them

<https://securityboulevard.com/2020/07/74-of-internet-users-feel-they-have-no-control-over-the-personal-information-collected-on-them/>

CYBER STATECRAFT

The Vatican Is Said to Be Hacked From China Before Talks With Beijing

David E. Sanger, Edward Wong and Jason Horowitz – The New York Times: 28 July 2020

In advance of sensitive talks with China, Chinese hackers infiltrated the Vatican's computer networks during the past three months.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/28/us/politics/china-vatican-hack.html>

For more on this theme:

(Iran) Iranian Spies Accidentally Leaked Videos of Themselves Hacking

<https://www.wired.com/story/iran-apt35-hacking-video/>

(North Korea) Rise of Kim Jong-un's sister marks increased North Korean cyberattacks

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jul/12/kim-yo-jong-kim-jong-un-sister-rise-marks-increase/>

(Russia, U.S., Global) Russian cyberthreat extends to coronavirus vaccine research

<https://theconversation.com/russian-cyberthreat-extends-to-coronavirus-vaccine-research-143047>

(Tunisia) COVID-19 has accelerated digitalization but will Tunisia log on?

<https://globalvoices.org/2020/07/30/covid-19-has-accelerated-digitalization-but-will-tunisia-log-on/>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Coronavirus crisis threatens internet opportunity for Native Americans

Avi-Asher Schapiro – Reuters: 27 July 2020

The offer for free broadband licenses from the U.S. government for Native American tribes is about to expire and, due to COVID-19 shutdowns, very few tribes have submitted applications. The licenses would go a long way toward eliminating the digital divide among Native American tribes. Advocates have called on Congress and the FCC to extend the deadline.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-rights-trfn/coronavirus-crisis-threatens-internet-opportunity-for-native-americans-idUSKCN24T06B>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Canada) Cities pledge to make connectivity a utility as COVID-19 exposes the digital divide

<https://cities-today.com/cities-pledge-to-make-connectivity-a-utility-as-covid-19-exposes-the-digital-divide/>

(India) COVID-19 lockdown highlights India's great digital divide

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/covid-19-lockdown-highlights-india-s-great-digital-divide-72514>

(U.S., Europe) Google is building a huge undersea fiber-optic cable to connect the U.S. to Britain and Spain

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/28/google-undersea-cable-grace-hopper.html>

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

EU imposes the first ever sanctions against cyber-attacks

European Council: 30 July 2020

For the first time, the European Union has applied restrictive measures to six individuals accused of cyber attacks against European targets: two Chinese citizens; four Russians; and three organizations, one each from China, North Korea and Russia.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/07/30/eu-imposes-the-first-ever-sanctions-against-cyber-attacks/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Garmin begins recovery from ransomware attack

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-53553576>

(U.S., Global) Hackers Tell the Story of the Twitter Attack From the Inside

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/17/technology/twitter-hackers-interview.html>

(Global) Lazarus changes strategy for bigger financial gain, operates own ransomware

<https://backendnews.net/2020/07/28/lazarus-changes-strategy-for-bigger-financial-gain-operates-own-ransomware/>

(U.S.) Cyber Attack Said to Disrupt Michigan's Online Bar Exam (1)

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/cyber-attack-locks-michigan-bar-exam-takers-out-of-online-test>

NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

Ransomware Negotiations and Original Hacker Culture

Caitlin Mattingly – Recorded Future: 27 July 2020

Sherry Davidoff, the founder and CEO of LMG Security, a cyber security and digital forensics firm with clients across the globe, shares the story of her professional journey, including her time deep in the hacker culture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she adopted the hacker nickname Alien.

<https://www.recordedfuture.com/podcast-episode-168/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Cyber Security Today – Lessons in cloud security learned from a data breach

<https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/cyber-security-today-lessons-in-cloud-security-learned-from-a-data-breach/433652>

(Global) Be the custodian of your own digital identity.

<https://theycyberwire.com/podcasts/hacking-humans/109/notes>

MASS SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

Is TikTok Spying On You For China?

Zak Doffman – Forbes: 25 July 2020

ProtonMail’s conclusion on TikTok is pretty stark: “The fact that TikTok is owned by a Chinese company, one that has explicitly said it would deepen its cooperation with the Chinese Communist Party, makes this excessive data collection even more concerning. The Chinese government has a history of strong-arming and co-opting Chinese tech companies into sharing their data and then using this data to intimidate, threaten, censor, or engage in human rights abuses.”

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/zakdoffman/2020/07/25/beware-tiktok-really-is-spying-on-you-new-security-report-update-trump-pompeo-china-warning/#91803c040148>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Surveillance, COVID-19, and the unexpected problems of a new normal

<https://www.policyforum.net/surveillance-covid-19-and-the-unexpected-problems-of-a-new-normal/>

(Global) Fighting COVID-19 with surveillance: Perspectives from across the globe

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/fighting-covid-19-with-surveillance-perspectives-from-across-the-globe/>

(Singapore) National facial ID service launches, DBS to use it for secure mobile sign-ups

<https://www.straitstimes.com/tech/dbs-to-use-national-facial-id-service-for-secure-mobile-log-ins>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

A bloodied ISIS still a threat in Afghanistan as it looks to recruit disgruntled Taliban

J.P. Lawrence – Stars and Stripes: 31 July 2020

The ISIS affiliate in Afghanistan has suffered heavy losses over the past year but is still looking to recruit disaffected Taliban members angered by the group's peace talks.

<https://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/a-bloodied-isis-still-a-threat-in-afghanistan-as-it-looks-to-recruit-disgruntled-taliban-1.639491>

Islamic State propaganda efforts struggle after Telegram takedowns, report says

Jeff Stone – Cyberscoop: 28 July 2020

ISIS is reportedly struggling to regain a foothold on mainstream social networks amid tighter controls from technology firms and ongoing attention from the U.S. military.

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/islamic-state-propaganda-telegram-europol/>

For more on this theme:

CENTCOM: No sign of coronavirus in Syria's IS prisons as riots raise concern

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/07/centcom-coronavirus-isis-prison-syria-riots-mckenzie.html>

ISIS in Iraq: 'Smoking the Fox Out of its Den' Strategy

<https://cgpolicy.org/articles/isis-in-iraq-smoking-the-fox-out-of-its-den-strategy/>

Islamic State never needed a caliphate to keep menacing the world. Now it's regrouping

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-11/islamic-state-is-back-and-the-west-is-partly-to-blame/12429296>

A second ISIS wave is lurking in the dark

<https://asiatimes.com/2020/07/a-second-isis-wave-is-lurking-in-the-dark/>

IS prisoner issue a ticking timebomb for the West

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-53428928>

Foreign fighters key to ISIS resurgence as thousands join new militias

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/foreign-fighters-key-to-isis-resurgence-as-thousands-join-new-militias-1.1052613>

OIR Follows in Predecessors' Footsteps in Defeating ISIS, Official Says

<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2285722/oir-follows-in-predecessors-footsteps-in-defeating-isis-official-says/>

ISIS and the Militant Jihad on Instagram

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/isis-and-the-militant-jihad-on-instagram/>

Not a "jihadi bride", but a female member of Isis

<https://www.thearticle.com/not-a-jihadi-bride-but-a-female-member-of-isis>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al-Shabaab Attacks Spike, as COVID-19 Grips the World

Sunguta West – The Jamestown Foundation: 28 July 2020

In the past few months, al-Shabaab's attacks have accelerated as the world focuses on the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest increase in violence is lending credence to earlier predictions that the extremist group would take advantage of the pandemic to step up attacks.

<https://jamestown.org/program/al-shabaab-attacks-spike-as-covid-19-grips-the-world/>

Al Qaeda gaining strength as terror fight focuses on ISIS

Nicky Harley – The National: 30 July 2020

A report by the European Union's Internet Referral Unit highlights the continuing online danger from ISIS but says a growing threat from resilient al-Qaida has gone under the radar. The report, which was published by Europol, said nations need to be aware of the al-Qaida threat and that the terrorist group had become more resilient.

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/al-qaeda-gaining-strength-as-terror-fight-focuses-on-isis-1.1056441>

For more on this theme:

Emergence and strengthened hold of Bakura faction of Boko Haram

<https://www.newdelhitimes.com/emergence-and-strengthened-hold-of-bakura-faction-of-boko-haram/>

African Militant Islamist Groups Set Record for Violent Activity

<https://africacenter.org/spotlight/african-militant-islamist-groups-new-record-violent-activity/>

Boko Haram's Expansionary Project in Northwestern Nigeria: Can Shekau Outflank Ansaru and Islamic State in West Africa Province?

<https://jamestown.org/program/boko-harams-expansionary-project-in-northwestern-nigeria-can-shekau-outflank-ansaru-and-islamic-state-in-west-africa-province/>

The Tactics and Targets of Domestic Terrorists

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/tactics-and-targets-domestic-terrorists>

Hezbollah Has Tried to Infiltrate Combatants into Territory Controlled by Israel

<https://carnegie-mec.org/diwan/82372>

Islamic State Boko Haram Faction Murders Aid Workers in Video

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/islamic-state-boko-haram-faction-murders-aid-workers-video>

Al-Qaeda-Linked Group Claims Attack on French Forces in Mali

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/07/31/mali-attack-claimed/>

Taliban Announces Prisoner Release

<https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/taliban-announces-prisoner-release>

Taliban Call Cease-Fire In Afghanistan For Muslim Holiday

<https://www.npr.org/2020/07/28/896158171/taliban-call-cease-fire-in-afghanistan-for-muslim-holiday>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Europe warned of ISIS radicalisation threat in prisons

Nicky Harley – The National: 27 July 2020

European fighters returning to the continent from ISIS conflict zones could cause a surge in popularity for the terrorist group among prisoners, researchers say.

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/europe-warned-of-isis-radicalisation-threat-in-prisons-1.1055403>

For more on this theme:

Understanding the Online and Offline Dynamics of Terrorist Pathways

<https://gnet-research.org/2020/07/13/understanding-the-online-and-offline-dynamics-of-terrorist-pathways/>

Is Terrorist Rehabilitation a Farce? A New Study Suggests Sometimes Yes

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/is-terrorist-rehabilitation-a-farce-a-new-study-suggests-sometimes-yes/>

Kenya Urged to Revive Education in Northeast to Stop al-Shabab Recruiting

<https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/kenya-urged-revive-education-north-east-stop-al-shabab-recruiting>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

Global China Webinar: Assessing China's growing regional influence and strategy

Brookings: 29 July 2020

In the span of a few short decades, China has established itself as a global actor. On July 29, Foreign Policy at Brookings hosted Lisa Curtis, deputy assistant to the U.S. president and senior director for South and Central Asia, to explore the impact of China's global activism and the world's response. At the White House, she serves at the forefront of shaping U.S. policy toward South and Central Asia, a region where China has invested considerable focus on expanding its influence.

<https://www.brookings.edu/events/global-china-webinar-assessing-chinas-growing-regional-influence-and-strategy>

For more on this theme:

India's medical diplomacy during COVID19 through South-South Cooperation

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/indias-medical-diplomacy-during-covid19-through-south-south-cooperation-69456/>

Soft power can be effective

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/india-china-galwan-faceoff-soft-power-can-be-effective-6499695/>

China Can Buy Influence, but It Can't Buy Love

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/07/20/china-diplomacy-east-germany/>

Hidden Moves: Countering Russian and Chinese Influence Activities on the Chessboard

<https://www.csis.org/podcasts/asia-chessboard/hidden-moves-countering-russian-and-chinese-influence-activities-chessboard>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

Is Iran Losing Its Grip on Its Proxy Militias in Iraq?

Geneive Abdo – World Politics Review: 28 July 2020

Kataib Hezbollah and other like-minded groups have received funding and support from Iran for years, and they often operate independently and in opposition to the Iraqi government. Operating essentially as Iranian proxies, how much control will Iran continue to have as it struggles with its own crises at home?

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/28945/is-iran-losing-its-grip-on-its-proxy-militias-in-iraq>

For more on this theme:

Russia's Shadowy Mercenaries Offer Humanitarian Aid to Clean Image

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/07/22/wagner-group-russia-syria-libya-mercenaries/>

Belarus Arrests Suspected Russian Mercenaries, Alleges Election Plot

<https://www.voanews.com/europe/belarus-arrests-suspected-russian-mercenaries-alleges-election-plot>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

Anti-NATO disinformation effort uses coronavirus to poke political tensions

Jeff Stone – Cyberscoop: 29 July 2020

A disinformation operation from Russia broke into the content management systems of Eastern European media outlets in a campaign to spread misinformation about NATO.

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/russia-disinformation-ghostwriter-secondary-infection/>

For more on this theme:

A new algorithm could catch social-media trolls as they try to influence US elections. Researchers are offering it for free.

<https://www.businessinsider.in/science/news/a-new-algorithm-could-catch-social-media-trolls-as-they-try-to-influence-us-elections-researchers-are-offering-it-for-free-/articleshow/77117702.cms>

The new ways the military is fighting against information warfare tactics

<https://www.defensenews.com/information-warfare/2020/07/20/the-new-ways-the-military-is-fighting-against-information-warfare-tactics/>

Disinformation Actors Are Gearing Up for U.S. Elections, FireEye Warns

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-07-29/disinformation-actors-gear-up-for-u-s-elections-fireeye-warns>

How the Internet Can Support Statecraft

<https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/perspectives-on-disinformation/how-the-internet-can-support-statecraft>

With Friends Like These: Assessing Russian Influence in Germany

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/friends-these-assessing-russian-influence-germany>

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

CURRENT STATE OF THE CORONAVIRUS

What's the secret to Southeast Asia's Covid success stories?

Dominic Meagher – The Interpreter: 28 July 2020

The real secret is that there is no secret. The strategy behind these successes of some South-east Asian countries is based on the same basic factors: prioritizing health above economic concerns, producing excellent public communications, enforcing early border controls and mandating behavior change – a strict lockdown, widespread use of masks and physical barriers, and avoiding indoor or confined spaces. These things work.

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/what-s-secret-southeast-asia-covid-success-stories>

For more on this theme:

Online Event: A Conversation with Dr. Anthony Fauci

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/online-event-conversation-dr-anthony-fauci>

How well is Ghana—with one of the best testing capacities in Africa—responding to COVID-19?

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2020/07/28/how-well-is-ghana-with-one-of-the-best-testing-capacities-in-africa-responding-to-covid-19/>

Operation Warp Speed leader says he expects coronavirus vaccine to be highly effective, 'in the 90%' range

<https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2020/07/30/health/operation-warp-speed-moncef-slaoui/index.html>

Children May Carry Coronavirus at High Levels, Study Finds

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/health/coronavirus-children.html>

CORONAVIRUS, NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Influence of the Pandemic on Russia's Defense Industry

Pavel Luzin – The Jamestown Foundation: 28 July 2020

COVID-19 has disrupted the flow of weapons to Russia's military, as well as the production and supply of weapons to other countries. What are the likely long-term effects of such delays?

<https://jamestown.org/program/the-influence-of-the-pandemic-on-russias-defense-industry/>

For more on this theme:

Covid-19 Reshapes the Future

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/covid-19-reshapes-future>

Russia Tests Combat Readiness Despite Pandemic

<https://jamestown.org/program/russia-tests-combat-readiness-despite-pandemic/>

How the EU Managed Its Coronavirus Comeback

<https://carnegieeurope.eu/2020/07/30/how-eu-managed-its-coronavirus-comeback-pub-82377>

How COVID-19 is Changing Indian Federalism

<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2020/07/28/how-covid-19-is-changing-indian-federalism/>

COVID-19 and the Impacts on Women

<https://www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-publication/nts/covid-19-and-the-impacts-on-women/#.XyO5iExFw2x>

COVID-19 and Authoritarian Regimes: China vs. Russia

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2020/07/covid-19-and-authoritarian-regimes-china-vs-russia/>

Learning losses due to COVID-19 could add up to \$10 trillion

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2020/07/30/learning-losses-due-to-covid-19-could-add-up-to-10-trillion/>