

Selected articles (August 28, 2019)

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1)

Breaking The Media Blackout on the Imprisonment of Julian Assange

The same media that has spent years dragging Assange's name through the mud is now engaging in a blackout on his treatment. If you are waiting for corporate media pundits to defend freedom of the press, you're going to be disappointed.

By Mnar Muhawesh

August 26th, 2019

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/media-blackout-imprisonment-espionage-act-julian-assange/261510/>

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2)

South American Shockwaves Bring the New Silk Road Into the Americas as Neo-Liberal Order Crumbles

By Matthew Ehret

August 25, 2019

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/08/25/south-american-shockwaves-bring-the-new-silk-road-into-the-americas-as-neo-liberal-order-crumbles/>

„[...] The entire western sponsored regime change operation in Venezuela couldn't be understood unless one realized that China and Russia see Venezuela as a strategic ally in the Americas and a future zone for Belt and Road projects which are sweeping across the world... but something more is happening.

Over the past three years, over 17 Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) nations have signed onto the new operating framework of the Belt and Road Initiative which extends far beyond the limited China-to-Europe corridor which many presumed it to be when it was announced in 2013. With its focus on long term planning and interconnectivity, China is already number one in vital infrastructure investments globally and while not number one in overall trade in the Americas, has now produced over six times more investment into Latin American energy infrastructure than the World Bank. [...]"

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3)

America's Criminal New Sanctions Against Venezuela Are a Consequence of Its Failed Regime-Change Strategy

By Joaquin Flores

August 22, 2019

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/08/22/americas-criminal-new-sanctions-against-venezuela-consequence-of-failed-regime-change-strategy/>

„[...] The recent round of sanctions against Venezuela, effective August 5th, will have a deleterious effect on transactions which effect individuals at the individual level, such as the suspension of various internet hosting possibilities, and even the cutting off of Paypal. Shipping companies may also feel significant pressure, and may evaluate that on the balance, business with Venezuela is a much less attractive option.

Countries such as China could work to protect their investments and commitments in Venezuela by offering assurances and guarantees to various international shipping companies, including supply-line security measures using its navy.

These US policies qualify as collective punishment, and those US policy advocates, politicians, corporate leaders, and media/journalistic outlets which have supported these illegal policies, are guilty of crimes against humanity. Ultimately, justice will demand that these individuals be brought to justice at The Hague, or other similar court empowered by the UN at the level of the General Assembly, and these should be pursued.

The US relies significantly on soft-power in numerous stages of a regime-change operation, but the operationalization of progressive/left oriented NGOs which the US uses effectively in other regions, are less of a utility given Venezuela's success at telling its story within a discursive framework which the staff of these NGO's find sympathetic.[...]"

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4a)

War Report: Israel Carries Out Strikes On Syria, Lebanon And Iraq

August 26, 2019

<http://thesaker.is/war-report-israel-carries-out-strikes-on-syria-lebanon-and-iraq/>

4b)

Hariri urges Russia to help prevent Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty

August 27, 2019

<https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2019/08/27/604609/Hariri-urges-Russia-to-stop-Israeli-attack-threats-escalation-against-Lebanon>

4c)

The First of Many Cauldrons Form in the Middle East

By Tom Luongo

August 27, 2019

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/08/27/first-many-cauldrons-form-middle-east/>

“[...] Russian air support bombing the resupply convoy was a stern message to Erdogan that he is not setting the tempo anymore in Syria and his time is up. Time to choose sides or be allowed to wither on the vine. [...]”

“[...] Iraq has reopened the Albukamal border crossing between it and Syria for the first time in seven years. And Tehran is working on improving highway connections between Iran and Syria, to facilitate trade. This leads to terrestrially breaking down Trump’s sanctions/embargoes on Iran and Syria.

Overland supplies from both Iran and Iraq can commence from there now. And US prohibitions on rebuilding Syria have zero support internationally.

But the bigger news is that Tehran is also proposing to Syria access to pipelines to secure its future energy supplies. [...]”

“[...] So, the cauldron around Israel is forming. With the Saudis in deep trouble, Egypt refusing to go along with any of Trump’s plans – Arab NATO, the Kushner Deal of the Century – the game board has fundamentally shifted against them.

Netanyahu bet the farm on Trump and Trump failed to deliver. They were countered at every turn by patient and scrupulous opponents who read the board better and didn’t respond muscularly to repeated provocations. They let events come to them and waited for the moment of over-commitment. [...]”

4d)

The Deeper Meaning in a Lost War

By Alastair Crooke

August 19, 2019

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/08/19/the-deeper-meaning-in-lost-war/>

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5a)

Putin floats Idlib buffer zone during Erdogan's Moscow visit

By Amberin Zaman

August 27, 2019

Article Summary

Moscow has brought up a buffer zone along the border between Turkey and Syria's Idlib as more Syrian civilians are put at risk by the Russian-backed offensive to retake the province.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/08/putin-proposes-buffer-zone-idlib.html>

5b)

How can Russia, Turkey reach deal on Idlib?

By Kirill Semenov

August 26, 2019

Article Summary

In the run-up to the Turkish president's visit to Moscow, few options may be on the table with regard to Syria's Idlib.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/08/russia-turkey-idlib-syria-sochi-agreement.html>

5c)

Syria in a Week (13 – 19 August 2019)

By Syria in a Week Editors

<https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/39915/Syria-in-a-Week-13-%E2%80%93-19-August-2019--2019-%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B9-13-%E2%80%93-19-%D8%A2%D8%A8-%D8%A3%D8%BA%D8%B3%D8%B7%D8%B3>

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6a)

The Saker interviews Professor Seyed Mohammad Marandi

August 21, 2019

<http://thesaker.is/the-saker-interviews-professor-seyed-mohammad-marandi/>

“[...] The Chinese and Russians know quite well that the United States, the Europeans, and regional countries have extensively used extremists in Syria to undermine the state and that those forces could later be used to undermine security in Central Asia, Russia, and China. A large number of Russian, Chinese, and Central Asians have been trained to fight in Syria, and this is a major threat to their collective security. The United States could use these and other extremists in an attempt to impede the potential success of the Belt and Road Initiative or other plans for Asian integration. Thus, there is a sharp and growing conflict between the Russians and the Americans. [...]”

“[...]Hence, Iran is not concerned about Russian-Israeli relation. Obviously, in an ideal world Iran would like Russia to break relations with the Israeli regime for its apartheid nature. But reality is reality, and Iranian relations with Russia are very good and at times I am sure the Iranians send certain warnings to the Israelis through the Russians. [...]”

“[...] The Israelis have been contained regionally, at home they are increasingly seen as an apartheid regime. Its regional allies are also on the decline and regionally. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are the only countries that can be considered as effective allies and they are facing a potential terminal decline. Therefore, regionally the regime is becoming more isolated. I do not believe that under such circumstances, the Israeli regime can last for very long. Just as the apartheid regime in South Africa collapsed under the burden of its own immoral existence, the Israeli regime will not last. There will be no two-state solution, the only realistic and moral solution is for Palestine to be united and for the indigenous population to have its rights restored, whether they are Palestinians, Jews or Christians or anyone else who is indigenous to the land. [...]”

6b)

G7 Nations at Odds on Iran?

By Stephen Lendman

August 26, 2019

<https://stephenlendman.org/2019/08/g7-nations-at-odds-on-iran/>

„[...] The JCPOA is dead short of a formal obituary notice. The only chance to save it is if Europe breaks with the Trump regime on this issue by fulfilling its treaty obligations — what it failed to do since May 2018, and shows no signs of changing policy.“

6c)

Iran to Further Reduce Nuclear Commitments on Sept. 6: Zarif

August, 27, 2019 - 14:10

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2019/08/27/2084419/iran-to-further-reduce-nuclear-commitments-on-sept-6-zarif>

6d)

'Major Miscalculation' Behind US Belief Iran Will Inevitably 'Fall to its Knees'

August 28, 2019

<https://sputniknews.com/analysis/201908281076657196-major-miscalculation-behind-us-belief-iran-will-inevitably-fall-to-its-knees/>

6e)

Rejection of International Law on the Rise: Iran's FM

By Current Affairs Correspondent East Asia

August 27, 2019

<https://www.beltandroad.news/2019/08/27/rejection-of-international-law-on-the-rise-irans-fm-says/>

6f)

Why Netanyahu dares to hit Iran's backyard in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon: Israel accepts Hezbollah's challenge.

By Elijah J. Magnier

August 26, 2019

<https://ejmagnier.com/2019/08/26/why-netanyahu-dares-to-hit-irans-backyard-in-iraq-syria-and-lebanon-israel-accepts-hezbollahs-challenge/>