

Dear Reader,

Since you last heard from us, the New Lines team has worked diligently to deliver independent research and breakthrough news, covering major ongoing and upcoming world events.

In the more than 100 days since Russia invaded Ukraine, the Russian military has engaged in a brutal campaign of [systemic destruction of civilian infrastructure, or urbicide](#).

[The UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia are increasingly competing over influence in the Maghreb](#) in moves that threaten to further destabilize a vital, fragile region. The UAE's search for new allies amid this competition with its neighbors also has created [the conditions for a rapprochement with Turkey](#), a move that has strong implications for the Persian Gulf.

After the ouster of former Prime Minister Imran Khan in April, [Pakistan is struggling to recover from its current economic and political crisis](#). Globally recognized experts, Dr. Syed Mohammad Ali and Raza Rumi offer a path forward for a U.S. policy approach to better support Pakistan [in a new Contours podcast episode](#).

And in the [latest edition of our "Roamings & Reflections" podcast series](#), host Alice Hickson invites Mercy Corps' Yasmin Faruki to share exclusive, on-the-ground insights into Yemen's humanitarian situation.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and we thank you for reading and sharing.



How the U.S. can Create a More Sustainable Relationship with Pakistan

Net Assessment, June 9, 2022



Pakistan is in the middle of a political upheaval, a devastating economic crisis, and a growing climate catastrophe while attempting to navigate increasingly fraught relations with the Afghan Taliban. In this Net Assessment, Dr. Syed Mohammed Ali writes that while there are no easy solutions to Pakistan's challenges, the U.S. is in a position to help – but it must first abandon its transactional, security-focused foreign policy and adopt a more sustainable, human-centric approach to relations with Islamabad.

[Read Here](#)

Russia's Campaign of Urbicide in Ukraine

The Dossier, June 7, 2022



From the onset of its invasion of Ukraine, Russia has engaged in a systematic and sustained campaign of destruction of Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, a strategy known as urbicide – the “killing” of a city. In this Dossier, Aaron Clements Hunt details the history of Russia’s use of urbicide in conflicts, the brutal effects the strategy wreaks on civilian populations caught in the middle of wars, and ways the United States can help mitigate the effects of the practice in Ukraine and bring its perpetrators to justice.

[Read Here](#)

What the Summit of the Americas Could Mean for Regional Relationships

Net Assessment, June 3, 2022



The Summit of the Americas provided a space for the Western Hemisphere’s leaders to discuss common policy issues, address challenges in the region, and determine mandates for action, writes Claudia Gago Ostos. Prior to the summit, some Caribbean and Central and South American countries threatened to boycott the event if non-democratic countries were excluded from the guest list. Washington’s ability to calm its tense relationships with participating Latin American countries will determine the outcome of the summit.

[Read Here](#)

Gulf Influence in the Maghreb

Terrain Analysis, June 1, 2022



The Maghreb is strategically crucial for commerce, energy, and U.S. national security, but Washington's allies in the Persian Gulf are increasingly taking advantage of instability in the region to further their own aims. In this Terrain Analysis, Karim Mezran Sabina Henneberg show the history of Gulf states' involvement in the region and why the Biden administration should pay attention to this volatile area.

[Read Here](#)

Regional Implications of a Turkey-UAE Reconciliation

Net Assessment, May 31, 2022



The UAE and Turkey have begun to normalize relations after a decade of cold war, a move that could hasten normalization between Turkey and Israel and further isolate Iran. In this Net Assessment, Hamdullah Baycar lays out the incentives – and obstacles – for improved relations between Ankara and Abu Dhabi.

[Read Here](#)

Roamings and Reflections: Yemen's Humanitarian Situation

Countours Podcast, June 2, 2022



In this episode of “Roamings and Reflections,” Mercy Corps Senior Policy Advisor Yasmin Faruki joins host Alice Hickson to share what she's learned from her travels to Yemen and her work directing humanitarian policy efforts there. Faruki discusses obstacles to humanitarian work in Yemen and speaks candidly about the need to partner with local organizations to create a sustainable future.

[Listen Here](#)

Pakistan in Crisis

Countours Podcast, June 10, 2022



In this episode of the Contours podcast series, Nicholas Heras discusses the tumultuous state of Pakistan with two globally recognized experts on the country: Dr. Syed Mohammad Ali and Raza Rumi Ahmad. They discuss the social and political fallout from the removal of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan and the geopolitical ramifications of Khan's ongoing effort to weaponize anti-Americanism. The experts also offer a path forward for an uncertain U.S. policy approach to Pakistan and India, and to meet the rising tide of Chinese power on the Indian subcontinent.

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Featured Publications



American Jews' Problems With Israel

By: Kent Allen

June 3, 2022

[Read Here](#)



Afghanistan's Sufi's Are Under Attack

By: Fazelminallah Qazizai

June 1, 2022

[Read Here](#)



Despite Liberation, Kharkiv Is in for Long-Term Misery

By: Tom Mutch

May 30, 2022

[Read Here](#)



New Lines in the Media

New Lines' staff have been sharing their informed analysis of current geopolitical events with other media outlets. Read these highlights of their recent interviews and publications.

New Lines Media Center

"U.S.-Kazakhstan Relations at 30: Eurasian Security & Prosperity" in the Wilson Center's Kennan Institute

By Kamran Bokhari

June 07, 2022

By deepening relations with Kazakhstan, the Biden White House can insulate the region from a Talibanized Afghanistan and prevent it from becoming China's superhighway to the Middle East and Europe, writes Kamran Bokhari.

"The elephant in the room, of course, is the fact that the Biden administration is shifting its previous tactic of icing Saudi Arabia out due to its commitment to a more serious human rights agenda – a risk for the administration." in The New Arab

Quoted- Caroline Rose

June 07, 2022

After a period of relatively cool U.S.-Saudi relations, President Joe Biden's upcoming trip to visit Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman proves that the White House has assessed that the benefits of the meeting now outweigh any moral costs.



"Kazakhstan Takes a Step Toward Democracy" in The Wall Street Journal

By Kamran Bokhari

June 05, 2022

Kazakhstan's prospective transformation is in keeping with Western values. It also is in line with American strategic interests in dealing with Russia and China, writes Kamran Bokhari.

"A Turkish military campaign in northeast Syria upsets the status quo in Syria, which benefits Iran's long game." in Kurdistan24

By Nicholas A. Heras

May 29, 2022

News coverage on Tehran's opposition to Turkey's cross-border offensive in Syria, viewing Turkey's actions as a violation of territorial integrity and sovereignty.



Featured Video

NEW LINES INSTITUTE
FOR STRATEGY AND POLICY

The Captagon Trade

A New Lines Institute Conference
Wednesday, May 25

Zoom ID: 822 9016 4877

10:00-11:30 AM EST:
Captagon's Participants

- This first panel will focus on the captagon trade's major state and non-state facilitators involved in production and smuggling, such as actors aligned with the Syrian regime, Hezbollah, and other organizations, and will discuss the trade's security and geopolitical ramifications.

11:30 AM-1:15 PM EST:
The Regional Response to Captagon

- This second panel will focus on the trade's implications for regional public health systems, regional law enforcement and border security, and how regional governments are seeking to counter the captagon trade.

1:30-3:00 PM EST:
A US Strategy on Captagon:

- This third panel will discuss how the US perceives the captagon trade and the policy avenues it can take to address the trade's implications for health, law enforcement, and human security.

During a three-part panel conference with regional experts, officials, and diplomats, Caroline Rose moderated the first discussion of its kind on captagon trade production in the Middle East. As smuggling operations spread on a global scale, the illicit trade of captagon has raised new concerns about mental health, law enforcement, and security.

The New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy is a non-partisan think tank in Washington D.C. working to enhance U.S. foreign policy based on a deep understanding of the geopolitics of the different regions of the world and their value systems.

Read more of our publications at newlinesinstitute.org