



#ESGT Impact

Andrea's Quick Take On All Things...

ESG & TECHNOLOGY

February 26, 2023

Geopolitics Crystallizing



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Dear Friends,

Why am I calling this month's newsletter "Geopolitics Crystallizing"? World events are moving at light speed and certain geopolitical tectonic shifts catalyzing over the past couple of years are now starting to perhaps crystallize. More on that in the new *2024 Megatrends Manual* I am currently writing and publishing with Diplomatic Courier in May. In the meantime, you can click [here for the 2023 Megatrends Manual](#) edition and [here for the 2022 edition](#).

This month I'd like to share with you a few related resources:

- My latest article co-authored with Tomer Saban, CEO of Wirex Systems (on whose Advisory Board I serve), on ["Ukraine's Cyber Defenses a Model for Our Cyber Future"](#) published in [Diplomatic Courier](#)
- The piece is part of Diplomatic Courier's book-azine published on the First Anniversary of the Ukraine War called ["Ukraine: A](#)

[Surprising Year, An Uncertain Future](#)" - I urge you to check it out as it has a series of insightful and important pieces as you can see from the Table of Contents reproduced below. [You can freely access and read it here.](#)

- I have an exciting sneak preview for you: in the next month the [Center for International Private Entrepreneurship](#) will publish an e-book I have written for them over the past year called "The Risk to Value Guide: How Emerging Market Businesses Can Transform New Risks into Value"" designed to help medium to large enterprises integrate new risks (including ESG and tech) into strategy. We will soon have a link for a free download. In the meantime check out the Table of Contents graphic below.
- For those of you who are members of the [Athena Alliance](#) (full disclosure - I serve on their Advisory Board), I'm starting a new bi-monthly Peer Group called "[Ripped from the Headlines: Risk & Crisis Governance in Turbulent Times](#)" on March 20th. For those who are not members, check out the [Athena Alliance membership information here.](#)
- Finally, check out [our new Videos page on our new website](#) in which have the full archive of recorded panels, keynotes, speeches and interviews over the years.

Until our next encounter, stay healthy, stay well, stay focused!

[Andrea](#)

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Diplomatic Courier February 2023

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UKRAINE'S CYBER-DEFENSES A MODEL FOR OUR CYBER FUTURE

BY TOMER SABAN . ANDREA BONIME-BLANC .

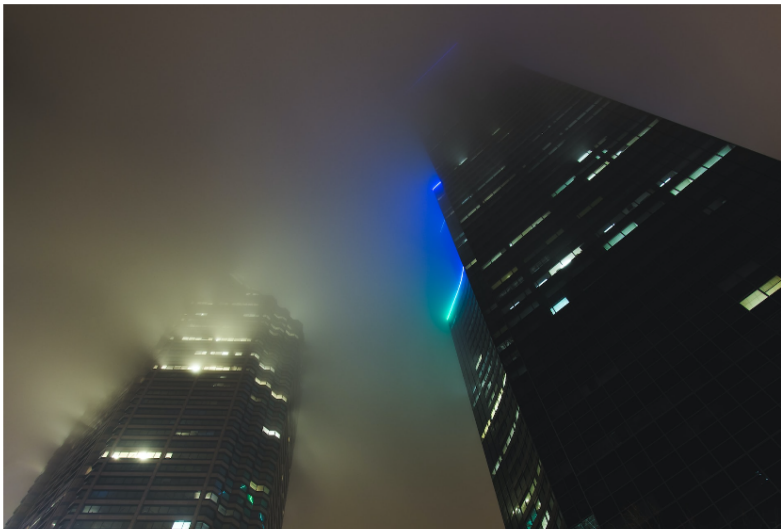



Photo by [Erika](#) on [Unsplash](#)

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

New Diplomatic Courier Bookazine - "Ukraine: A Surprising Year, An Uncertain Future" - February 24, 2023



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Ukraine's Cyber-Defenses a Model for Our Cyber Future

By Tomer Saban & Andrea Bonime-Blanc

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One year on, Russia's unprecedented war on Ukraine has featured several key cyber warfare lessons the rest of the world needs to take on. The war has been unprecedented because it is the first multi-dimensional war in which the kinetic aspect of war is so deeply intertwined with various forms of tech-enabled warfare including cyber, social media, disinformation, social engineering, robotics/drones, geospatial, satellite imagery, telecoms, and more.

These multi-dimensional technologies are not only available to national militaries but also to other stakeholders through various open-source intelligence methodologies (what is widely called "OSINT"). Witness the work of investigative journalism collective, Bellingcat, who are deploying multiple technologies, social media and old-fashioned sleuthing to reconstruct Russian war crimes, among other things.

The details of the military cyber warfare aspect of this war are not clear especially to those outside the military and governmental establishment. Yet the Ukrainian example can teach us valuable lessons. With these lessons, we can be more prepared, more protective of our stakeholders and assets, and more resilient moving into the future regardless of the sector we are in—business, NGO, or government.

The unfolding Ukrainian cyber-war story is a story of preparedness and continuous improvement. Indeed, it's a master class in value-added resilience building.

Background to Cyber War: The Ukrainian Model

Ukraine has a history of being targeted by cyber-attacks, particularly from Russia, due to the almost decade-long conflict between the two countries. To defend against these attacks, Ukraine has developed a strong cyber-security culture and infrastructure in both the public and private sectors.

In the public sector, Ukraine has established a dedicated cyber-security agency, the State Service for Special Communications and Information Protection, which is responsible for protecting government networks and critical infrastructure. The agency works closely with other government bodies and international partners to share information and coordinate response efforts.

THE UKRAINIAN EXAMPLE CAN TEACH US VALUABLE LESSONS. WITH THESE LESSONS, WE CAN BE MORE PREPARED, MORE PROTECTIVE OF OUR STAKEHOLDERS AND ASSETS, AND MORE RESILIENT MOVING INTO THE FUTURE REGARDLESS OF THE SECTOR WE ARE IN—BUSINESS, NGO, OR GOVERNMENT.


In the private sector, many Ukrainian companies have also invested in cyber-security, particularly in the IT, telecoms, and finance industries. These companies often have their own internal security teams and work with external security companies to protect their networks.

Additionally, Ukraine has a large pool of highly skilled and educated IT professionals. Thanks to this pool, Ukraine is one of the most sought-after countries for hiring remote skilled IT people, many of whom have experience working in cyber-security. This has helped to create a robust ecosystem of cyber-security expertise in the country.

Overall, Ukraine's investment in both public and private sector cyber-security, along with its large pool of IT professionals, has helped the country to be relatively successful in fending off cyberattacks. Yet it is important to remember that no country is completely immune to cyberattacks, and Ukraine continues to experience numerous, sometimes successful cyber-attacks. Finally, and very importantly, the Ukrainian cyber-response to Russian aggression (to-

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Sneak Preview - Coming in March: CIPE & GEC Risk Advisory's "Risk to Value Guide: How Emerging Market Businesses Can Transform New Risks into Value"



Risk to Value Guide: How Emerging Market Businesses Can Transform New Risks Into Value

Andrea Bonime-Blanc

GEC Risk Advisory

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

MARCH 2023

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Athena Alliance - New Peer Group Begins March 20th -
"Ripped from the Headlines - Risk & Crisis Governance in
Turbulent Times"



PEER GROUP

Peer Group: Ripped from the Headlines: Risk and Crisis Governance in Turbulent Times

About this event

From geopolitical shifts and supply chain disruptions to leadership scandals and climate impacts, executives and boards have rarely navigated a more complex, risky as well as opportunity-laden environment.

This Peer Group will be facilitated by global governance, risk, and ESGT expert, Andrea Bonime-Blanc, who has helped dozens of boards (as a board member and as a strategic advisor) successfully tackle their most complex challenges. She will deploy current stories – ripped from the headlines – as case studies and teachable moments for discussion in each meeting.

She'll share her insider secrets for strategic risk governance in this insightful series, providing a compass to future-proof your board and help you transform risk into value.

Check out Last Month's Issue of ESGT Impact



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Andrea's Quick Take On All Things...

ESG & TECHNOLOGY

January 29, 2023

Uncertainty on the Horizon...



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**Check out the New Videos Page of our New GEC Risk
Advisory Website**



Videos

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Turbulence Is the Name of the Game



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The End and...the Beginning



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Into the Vortex



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Tectonic Geopolitical Shift

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