



## - Beyond the Water's Edge -

### Honest Candor

#### **Troubled Bridge Over Stolen Waters**

Edward Lucas | Center for European Policy Analysis | October 9, 2022

**Bottom Line:** After a Ukrainian special forces operation severely damaged the Kerch Strait Bridge connecting Crimea to the Russian mainland, Moscow's war effort—and its illegal occupation of the peninsula—may prove to be logistically untenable.

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#### **Who Will Control the Black Sea?**

TVC Advisory Board Member Colleen Graffy | GIS Reports | October 11, 2022

**Bottom Line:** Moscow's war against Ukraine is in part a continuation of Russia's centuries-long project to dominate the Black Sea. With Turkey controlling the only access to the region and NATO members Romania & Bulgaria pushing for a greater allied presence, the region is poised to once again become a focal point of geopolitical competition.

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#### **The West Should Welcome the Middle Corridor**

TVC Advisory Board Member James J. Carafano (with Silviu Nate) | National Interest | October 1, 2022

**Bottom Line:** To replace overland trade routes foreclosed by Russia's war against Ukraine and counter China's Belt and Road Initiative, Europe should

make strategic investments in the nascent road-and-rail corridor running from Kazakhstan to Turkey.

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## **Death, Corruption, Despair: The Darien Hell that Thousands of Venezuelans Cross Every Day to Reach the U.S.**

Orlando Avendano & Edgar Beltrán | El American | October 4, 2022

**Bottom Line:** Every day, hundreds of Venezuelans—and thousands of others from as far afield as Russia—attempt to cross one of the most rugged jungles in the world *en route* to the United States. The naturally deadly Darién Gap is made even more dangerous by traffickers, bandits, and unscrupulous officials who prey on the migrants.

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## **Offshore Balancing: The British Analogy**

TVC Advisory Board Member Colin Dueck | American Enterprise Institute | October 6, 2022

**Bottom Line:** Britain's historical experience suggests that the United States cannot rely on offshore balancing alone to contain its rivals. Washington will have to draw on a powerful navy, an expeditionary army, continental allies, pragmatic diplomacy, and economic leverage to prevail in great power competition.

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PO Box 18651, Washington  
District of Columbia 20003 United States

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