

Article Review #2: The Role International Law in Combating Dark Web Dug Trafficking

Kirstie Joseph

School of Cybersecurity, Old Dominion University

CYSE 201S: Cybersecurity and the Social Sciences

Professor Diwakar Yalpi

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Introduction/BLUF

Illicit drug trafficking on the dark web presents as a major challenge to combat because it operates within a space that is without borders, making it nearly impossible to regulate. Relying on technologies like cryptocurrency, making it difficult for a single country to regulate or control. This study examines how international law is used to combat drug trafficking through the dark web and highlights the limitations of current legal frameworks. The article argues that while international cooperation is necessary, gaps in enforcement, jurisdiction, and consistency reduce the overall effectiveness of these efforts.

Relation/Connection to Social Science principles:

This study is directly grounded in social science principles, particularly criminology, sociology, and political science. From a criminology perspective, it examines how offenders adapt to new environments, using the dark web and cryptocurrency to reduce risk and avoid detection. From a sociological perspective, the study reflects how technology reshapes human behavior and enables new forms of deviance. The anonymity of the internet lowers accountability and encourages participation in illegal activities. From a political science perspective, the study highlights the importance of global governance and international cooperation in addressing crimes that extend beyond national boundaries.

Research Question / Hypotheses / Independent Variable/ Dependent Variable

- **Research Question:**

How effective are international crimes in combating illicit drug trafficking conducted through the dark web?

- **Hypothesis:**

H1: Weak international cooperation and inconsistent legal frameworks reduce the effectiveness of combating dark web drug trafficking

H2: Stronger international cooperation improves enforcement against transnational cyber-enabled drug crimes.

- **Independent variables:** Strength of international law, level of global cooperation, legal enforcement capabilities.

- **Dependent variables:** The effectiveness in thwarting dark web drug trafficking.

Types of Research methods used: The study uses a qualitative research approach because it relies on legal analysis, policy review, and examination of existing international frameworks related to cybercrime and drug trafficking.

Types of Data Analysis used: The study uses qualitative data, including legal documents, international agreements, and prior research on cybercrime and drug trafficking.

Connections to other Course Concepts

This study connects to course concepts related to empirical research and evidence-based analysis. The researchers relied on empirical data collected through survey responses from 259 employees and used statistical modeling to test their hypotheses.

Connections to the Concerns or Contributions of Marginalized Groups

Although the study does not directly focus on marginalized groups, the issue of dark web drug trafficking disproportionately affects vulnerable populations. Lower-income communities are often more impacted by drug distribution and addiction, which are directly tied to trafficking networks.

Overall societal contributions of the study/Conclusion

The overall societal contribution of this study is that it emphasizes the growing gap between rapidly evolving cybercrime and slower-moving legal systems. By focusing on international law, the study highlights the importance of global coordination in addressing crimes that do not follow geographic boundaries. This study contributes to society by identifying weaknesses in current legal frameworks and encouraging stronger collaboration between nations. It reinforces that without consistent enforcement, effective use of digital evidence, and coordinated efforts by law enforcement, dark web drug trafficking will continue to expand. Although I did not explore every detail of this study, it made me think about how solutions to cybercrime could lead to stronger global control systems. While increased cooperation is necessary, it is important to consider how these changes might affect privacy, power distribution, and individual freedoms over time.

Reference

International Journal of Cyber Criminology. (n.d.). *Role of International Law in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking Via the Dark Web*. Retrieved from <https://cybercrimejournal.com/menuscript/index.php/cybercrimejournal/article/view/487/146>