

Fortnightly links: worms (again!), bombs, South Sudan, human rights, and more

by Camilla Burkot and Terence Wood

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The [worm wars](#) continue! A [new meta-analysis](#) (from one of deworming's main advocates) disputes the findings of the Cochrane analysis (which you've no doubt read by now) and contends that deworming is not just effective but cost-effective. You be the judge.

A smart [new paper](#) makes use of the way the United States bombed in Vietnam to leap the hurdle of reverse causality and come up with a good estimate of the impact of aerial bombing on insurgent activity. Main finding: it increased it.

The 'golden era' of global health financing is well and truly over, [write](#) Robert Hecht and J. Stephen Morrison for CSIS; going forward, middle income countries in particular will have find new ways of funding disease control. Hepatitis C treatment provides an instructive example. On a related note, in an [interview](#) with *Scientific American* Bill Gates talks about the important role that data plays in his philanthropy.

Violence has flared up again in Africa's youngest country, South Sudan. *Foreign Policy* offers a [frontline report](#) from what has been described as "one of the most horrendous human rights situations in the world", while Sinophiles will want to read [this analysis](#) of how China is grappling with its role as both an arms dealer and peacekeeper in the region. And the ICRC has this [sobering story](#) of life and loss in a public hospital 400 kilometres from the capital, Juba.

On the *Lowy Interpreter*, Elaine Pearson [sets out](#) a five-point human rights agenda for Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and [newly appointed DFAT Secretary](#) Frances Adamson to consider.

One from the archives — but given the state of current affairs over the last two weeks, now seems a good time to remind ourselves that overall [things really are getting better](#) (according to statistics compiled by Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker).

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Link:

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