

5 pieces worth reading

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Jimmy Carter and the end of democratic capitalism

Robert Reich, who served as Secretary of Labor under President Clinton and is now a University of California-Berkeley professor of politics, considers the news in this essay that former President Jimmy Carter has decided to enter hospice care. That turn prompted the author to look back and to argue that the nation's post-Depression era of democratic capitalism—government oversight of the private sector for the common good—came to an end at the conclusion of Carter's term. Reich argues that Carter's defeat in 1980 paved the way for a return to corporate capitalism, which continues to prevail in the nation today.

Reich, R. (2023, February 20). "Jimmy Carter and the end of democratic capitalism." *Robert Reich*. Retrieved from <https://robertreich.substack.com/p/jimmy-carters-democratic-capitalism>

What Ford's pardon of Nixon means (and doesn't mean) for Trump

Garrett Graff argues in this *New York Times* piece that President Gerald Ford chose unwisely in pardoning his predecessor Richard Nixon for any crimes he may have committed in the Watergate scandal, as his choice set a precedent that our nation's chief executives are immune from prosecution in office and legally untouchable thereafter. Graff maintains that prosecuting Trump would actually restore confidence in the national judicial system.

Graff, G. (2023, February 20). "What Ford's pardon of Nixon means (and doesn't mean) for Trump." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/20/opinion/ford-nixon-trump.html>

Why isn't Joe Biden getting credit for the economic recovery?

Vox reporter Christian Paz asks why President Biden is not receiving more praise for the nation's strong economy in this story, as unemployment is now at its lowest level since 1969 and inflation has declined for seven straight months. More, the economy has created 12 million jobs since Biden took office. Paz argues, among other things, that a sharp rise in partisanship, and the fact

Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)

that wage growth has not kept pace with inflation overall, are key factors that help to explain the disconnect between the relative vibrancy of the economy and voter perceptions.

Paz, C. (2023, February 21). "Why isn't Joe Biden getting credit for the economic recovery?" *Vox*. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/politics/2023/2/21/23603432/joe-biden-economy-approval-rating>

The example John Fetterman is setting

Dr. Peggy Drexler, a research psychologist, uses this essay to commend Pennsylvania Senator John Fetterman for seeking treatment for his clinical depression, as many Americans do not seek assistance when confronting that condition for fear of being stigmatized. Drexler argues that although it is reasonable to ask whether Fetterman can continue to serve in what, by definition, is a high stress post, she rejects the claims of those who immediately questioned his mental fitness to serve and contends instead that Fetterman, who, she argues, is setting a courageous example, be permitted space to heal and to address the question of whether he is able to continue in his role as, and when, it may be appropriate to do so.

Drexler, P. (2023, February 18). "The example John Fetterman is setting." CNN. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/17/opinions/john-fetterman-depression-americans-drexler>

George Washington would hate Presidents' Day

Presidential historian Alexis Coe contends in this *New York Times* essay that the nation should embrace the Presidents' Day federal holiday as a reminder of its founding democratic ideals. Coe employs the famous warnings in President George Washington's Farewell Address to examine former president Donald Trump's many actions aimed at undermining democratic principles to underscore his argument.

Coe, A. (2023, February 17). "George Washington would hate Presidents' Day." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/17/opinion/presidents-day-george-washington.html>