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5 pieces worth reading

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Dear friends of VTIPG and CCC,

We share five articles each week that we find timely and meaningful that address significant concerns related to the state of democracy and civil society. We aim to offer pieces that illuminate an array of our country's policy and governance challenges and the state of social norms that sustain the possibility of addressing them successfully. **Please note, the views expressed in these essays do not necessarily reflect the perspective of VTIPG or Virginia Tech.** We also upload these pieces to our website. You may find the archive at [News and Opportunities](http://ipg.vt.edu/News and Opportunities) at <http://ipg.vt.edu/>

If you would like to suggest an article or essay for consideration for this series, and I encourage you to do so, please contact me, Billy Parvatam, at pbilly97@vt.edu.

- First up, is a *New York Times* piece that examines the shifting character of the demographic base of the Democratic Party.
- Second, we offer another article from *The New York Times* that argues that President Biden's historical legacy will be determined by how effectively he manages the ongoing international crises in Ukraine, Iran, and Taiwan.
- A third story, from *Vox*, suggests that the October attack on Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband by a deranged zealot was inspired by years of inflammatory rhetoric directed at Ms. Pelosi by Republican Party officials.
- Our fourth offering, from *Foreign Policy*, describes a strategy by which the Biden Administration could counteract the anti-democratic measures aimed at hobbling the power of that country's supreme court now being proposed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government in Israel.
- Last, we share a *CNN* article that contends that a Maryland state legislative proposal to incentivize companies to move to a four-day work week may constitute an effective counter to our nation's current culture of over-work.

Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)

How much longer can ‘vote blue no matter who!’ last?

Long time *New York Times* columnist Thomas Edsall examines the implications of the fact that the Democratic Party has shifted away from its traditional base of white working-class voters and now finds its core support among white liberals and minority constituencies. Edsall outlines the forces presently influencing the perceptions and perspectives of this center-left coalition of voters.

Edsall, T. (2023, February 1). “How much longer can 'vote blue no matter who!' last?” *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/01/opinion/democratic-party-coalition.html>

How will Joe Biden be remembered in 50 years?

New York Times columnist Bret Stephens argues that President Joe Biden’s legacy will be determined principally by his management of ongoing international crises in Ukraine, Iran, and Taiwan, in addition to finding a way to defeat Donald Trump. Stephens compares the challenges confronting President Biden with those that President Franklin D. Roosevelt faced during WWII.

Stephens, B. (2023, February 1). “How will Joe Biden be remembered in 50 years?” *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/31/opinion/joe-biden-future-savior.html>

The brutal, politically motivated attack on Nancy Pelosi’s husband, explained

Nicole Narea of *Vox* discusses the recently released video footage of the brutal October attack on former Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s husband, Paul Pelosi. She argues that the assailant’s rationale for his actions can be traced to years of Republicans targeting Pelosi extremely with harsh rhetoric. Many party officials and allied media figures and supporters including Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, for example, have demonized Pelosi and, in Greene’s case, directly indicated support for violence against her.

Narea, N. (2023, January 27). “The brutal, politically motivated attack on Nancy Pelosi's husband, explained.” *Vox*. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2022/10/29/23430340/nancy-pelosi-paul-pelosi-political-violence-republican-attacks>

Is Israel’s Democracy America’s problem?

James Traub of *Foreign Policy* discusses Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s proposal to diminish the power of his nation’s Supreme Court in this article. He argues that the Biden administration should employ U.S. leverage as a major supporter of Israel to defeat this anti-democratic action. The United States should, Traub contends, at the very least stop blocking resolutions of condemnation of Israel at the United Nations.

Traub, J. (2023, January 30). "Is Israel's Democracy America's problem?" *Foreign Policy*. Retrieved from <https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/01/30/is-israels-democracy-americas-problem/>

Opinion: Maryland is striking a blow at the absurd culture of over-work

This story by Jill Filipovic of *CNN* discusses a proposal offered by several state lawmakers in Maryland that would encourage state companies to move to a four-day work week by offering \$750,000 in tax breaks for doing so. Filipovic argues that this move would prove very beneficial for the state's workers, who have seen their productivity increase in recent decades while their wages remain stagnant in real terms.

Filipovic, J. (2023, January 31). "Opinion: Maryland is striking a blow at the absurd culture of over-work." *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/31/opinions/maryland-bill-four-day-workweek-filipovic-ctrp>