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## *5 pieces worth reading*

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### **The era of urban supremacy is over**

Thomas Edsall argues in this *New York Times* article that most of the nation's major cities face an uncertain future as many middle-class taxpayers move to the suburbs and work remotely in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Edsall contends that this group's exodus has important ramifications, as they are among the most important sources of income and property tax revenues for the cities affected. This trend could have significant consequences for the Democratic Party, as much of its base is centered in urban areas.

Edsall, T. (2023, March 15). "The era of urban supremacy is over." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/15/opinion/post-pandemic-cities-suburbs-future.html>

### **Putin and Netanyahu show why bad things happen to bad leaders**

*New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman contends in this piece that Russian President Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have many characteristics in common, and that their leadership has had negative effects in each of their countries. In Putin's case, as one example, his expectation that he would capture Ukraine quickly was wrong and more than a year later, NATO stands unified in opposition, and Russia faces stiff economic sanctions. Meanwhile, Netanyahu's desire to weaken his nation's independent judiciary and Supreme Court has been met with widespread opposition and protests. Friedman argues that both leaders erred profoundly because they have been in power for many years and have failed to surround themselves with independent-minded people willing to call them out when they make unreasoned or otherwise indefensible choices.

Friedman, T. (2023, March 14). "Putin and Netanyahu show why bad things happen to bad leaders." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/14/opinion/benjamin-netanyahu-israel-putin-russia.html>

### **A 2018 banking law paved the way for Silicon Valley Bank's collapse**

*Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)*

Nicole Narea discusses the collapse of the Silicon Valley Bank in this article and contends that a 2018 national law that further deregulated banking enabled that turn. That statute rolled back key provisions of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act aimed at ensuring that banks maintain adequate levels of liquidity and capacity to absorb losses. Ironically, Silicon's chief executive at its demise served as a fervent lobbyist for the 2018 law.

Narea, N. (2023, March 13). "A 2018 banking law paved the way for Silicon Valley Bank's collapse." *Vox*. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/business-and-finance/2023/3/13/23638655/silicon-valley-bank-trump-fdic-banking-law>

### **Biden just broke a big climate promise**

Rebecca Leber suggests in this story that the Biden administration's decision to allow the oil company ConocoPhillips to drill on some public land in Northern Alaska may work to undermine its otherwise unprecedentedly successful effort to combat climate change via the Inflation Reduction Act. Leber argues that the administration is trying to have it both ways on climate change with this action and that taking it breaks a campaign promise Biden made not to permit new drilling leases on public lands.

Leber, R. (2023, March 14). "Biden just broke a big climate promise." *Vox*. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/climate/2023/3/14/23637780/willow-project-biden-oil-drilling-climate-change>

### **What history reveals about the DeSantis playbook**

Nicole Hemmer sketches Florida Governor Ron DeSantis's strategy to build support for a potential 2024 GOP presidential nomination bid in this story. She argues that he has combined rhetoric with legislative and executive action to energize elements of the Republican base. Hemmer maintains that by banning books in school libraries, firing allegedly liberal-leaning prosecutors, and transferring migrants and refugees to Blue states and stranding them there in well publicized incidents, DeSantis is seeking to demonstrate to possible GOP voters that he can be a more effective and aggressive version of former President Trump.

Hemmer, N. (2023, March 15). "Opinion: What history reveals about the DeSantis playbook. CNN." Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/15/opinions/desantis-new-college-2024-elections-gop-hemmer>