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5 pieces worth reading

March 2, 2023 By: Billy Parvatam Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance https://ipg.vt.edu/

On Ukraine, Biden outshines Macron, Scholz - and DeSantis

Columnist Bret Stephens praises President Biden in this *New York Times* piece for his leadership concerning the Russia-Ukraine war, especially in comparison to other prominent leaders. President Biden's decision to continue strongly to support the Ukrainians politically and militarily demonstrates his determination to aid that nation in its fight for continued freedom and independence, despite some international and domestic politicians, including Florida Republican Governor Ron DeSantis, waffling concerning such assistance.

Stephens, B. (2023, March 1). "On Ukraine, Biden outshines Macron, Scholz - and DeSantis." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/28/opinion/ukraine-war-biden-russia.html

There is a path to ending the Ukraine War

Fareed Zakaria argues in this *CNN* piece that the Russia-Ukraine war has reached a stalemate, and the only way to end the conflict is through negotiation. Zakaria asserts that the task ahead for the West is to ensure that Ukraine has sufficient momentum on the battlefield that it enters such talks with a strong hand.

Zakaria, F. (2023, February 28). "There is a path to ending the Ukraine War." *CNN*. Retrieved from https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/24/opinions/fareed-zakaria-ukraine-column

The Supreme Court showdown over Biden's student debt relief program, explained

In this article, Ian Millhiser discusses recent oral arguments before the Supreme Court concerning the Biden Administration's student loan forgiveness plan, and assesses that effort's likelihood of being upheld. Graff argues that the outlook for the initiative is unfavorable as the Court's current majority has already curbed the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to fight climate change, struck down vaccine mandates, and overturned the long-standing right to abortion during President Biden's first two years in office.

Ut Prosim	(That I	may	Serve)
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Millhiser, I. (2023, February 13). "The Supreme Court Showdown over Biden's student debt relief program, explained." Vox. Retrieved from https://www.vox.com/policy-andpolitics/2023/2/13/23587751/supreme-court-student-loan-debt-forgiveness-joe-biden-nebraskadepartment-education-brown

India, world's largest democracy, leads global list of internet shutdowns

Rhea Mogul discusses a recent Access Now report that governments in India imposed 84 of the 187 internet shutdowns that occurred across the world in 2022, making it the fifth straight year the world's largest democracy, with more than 1.3 billion people, has topped this list of ignominy. These shutdowns and this report come at a time when India's commitment to freedom of speech under the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has come under intense scrutiny around the world.

Mogul, R. (2023, March 1). "India, World's largest democracy, leads global list of internet shutdowns," CNN business. CNN. Retrieved from https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/01/tech/internet-shutdowns-india-report-intl-hnk/index.html

The end of the English major

In this New Yorker essay Nathan Heller explores the reasons for the fact that the study of English and History have dropped by a third since 2013, as measured by the number of majors each discipline is attracting in the nation's colleges and universities. Heller contends that the technological advances of the past 20-years and pressure from students' parents and from broader social expectations to study subjects perceived as likely to result in higher-pay as among the reasons for this change.

Heller, N. (2023, February 27). The end of the English major. The New Yorker. Retrieved from https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/03/06/the-end-of-the-englishmajor?utm source=nl&utm brand=tny&utm mailing=TNY Daily 022723&utm campai gn=auddev&utm_medium=email&utm_term=tny_daily_digest&bxid=5be9cc5d2ddf9c72dc183b1 5&cndid=22811782&hasha=009e3a5e9e977a807281a8e42634915a&hashb=d56084b6370 d390cc11eb3175d87c438d1e5903a&hashc=a5de9775f20cf50bc1989a0bf8eb173bfb1b5f76 53264f0b54843de2d8134bfa&esrc=profile-page