

5 pieces worth reading

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By: Billy Parvatam

Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance

<https://ipg.vt.edu>

A leaky Supreme Court starts to resemble the other branches.

Adam Liptak argues that the leaked Supreme Court opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade* poses a long-term threat to the legitimacy of the court, especially in the wake of continuing partisan fights over confirmations to that bench. He suggests that the leak lays bare the fact that the court does not exist outside of politics and ultimately makes it clear to citizens that it is no different than other institutions of government in that important respect.

Liptak, A. (2022, May 11). *A leaky Supreme Court starts to resemble the other branches. The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/11/us/supreme-court-leak-roe-wade.html>

The most pivotal elections in 2022 are not the ones you think.

University of Michigan Professor Barbara McQuade argues that the fate of American democracy rests on secretary of state elections this November. Most such officials oversee elections, a role of tremendous influence, especially in today's highly charged political climate. Twenty-seven states will hold secretary of state elections in the fall, with 17 featuring Republican candidates who continue to deny, against all evidence, that President Biden won the 2020 election.

McQuade, B. (2022, May 12). *The most pivotal elections in 2022 are not the ones you think. The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/12/opinion/midterms-state-races.html>

Democracy might be in crisis. But autocracy certainly is.

Although the phrase "Crisis of democracy" is frequently used these days, Simon Kuper argues that autocracy meltdowns are also happening in China, Russia, Turkey, and Ethiopia. He points to factors such as war, inflation, and widely distrusted vaccines as reasons for their economic decline and consequent political travail.

Kuper, S. (2022, May 12). *Democracy might be in crisis. But autocracy certainly is. Financial Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.ft.com/content/9f5227ab-c362-4693-828c-d1a7adce0223>

Why Biden's anti-Putin democracy crusade is failing.

Senior correspondent Michael Hirsh argues that President Biden's effort to frame the Russia-Ukraine war as a struggle for democracy has not been broadly accepted by members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, many of which are autocratic or one-party states. In that sense, the President's challenge runs deeper than the present war in Ukraine, and he must find ways to bolster democracy in nations now not practicing it while also securing their economic and diplomatic support in efforts to contain China's ambitions.

Hirsh, M. (2022, May 11). *Why Biden's anti-Putin democracy crusade is failing*. *Foreign Policy*. Retrieved from <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/05/11/us-russia-war-ukraine-democracy-autocracy/>

Europe is saving democracy from Big Tech.

Time magazine editor Karl Vick recently interviewed Harvard Professor Emerita Shoshana Zuboff concerning her book, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*, and in doing so discussed Elon Musk's reported purchase of Twitter and the European Union's new landmark law intended to regulate Big Tech more effectively. Zuboff argued that Europe's Digital Services Act, will allow that continent's governments to rein in corporate tech giants and ensure that the digital information space remains subject to the democratic rule of law.

Vick, K. (2022, May 11). *Europe is saving democracy from Big Tech*. *Time*. Retrieved from <https://time.com/6174614/shoshana-zuboff-twitter-surveillance-capitalism/>