

5 pieces worth reading

June 10, 2022

By: Billy Parvatam

Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance

<https://ipg.vt.edu/>

The Jan. 6 hearings can prove Trump's big lie is still a threat

Norman Eisen and E. Danya Perry argue that the upcoming U.S. House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol televised hearings on June 9, 13, 15-16, and 23 have an obligation not only to demonstrate to viewers that the violence on that tragic day not only constituted an effort to overturn American Democracy, but also to repudiate fully the “Big Lie” that the 2020 election was rife with fraud.

Eisen, N., & Perry, E. D. (2022, June 9). “The Jan. 6 hearings can prove Trump's big lie is still a threat.” *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/09/opinion/january-6-hearings-success.html>

America should worry about lost democracy at home

Armstrong Williams argues that the executive branch, through independently initiating wars, legislating through executive orders, diverting funds for purposes not authorized by Congress, and the legislative branch, by means of the way it develops its leaders, have each contributed to the decline of American democracy. Williams contends that the United States cannot claim to be a leader in protecting democracy abroad without first attending to its governance problems at home.

Williams, A. (2022, June 8). “America should worry about lost democracy at home.” *The Hill*. Retrieved from <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/3515348-america-should-worry-about-lost-democracy-at-home/>

You can't run on defending democracy if democracy is broken

Jacob Rosenberg argues that Democrats' message to protect the institutions of democracy is no longer likely to be effective with voters, as they have failed to pass voting protections to preserve democracy, legislation that can only be passed through eliminating the legislative filibuster due to nearly unanimous Republican opposition. In addition, we are currently living in a governmental system that has been unable to overcome minority opposition to gun control legislation, that stands on the precipice of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, and that has stymied President Biden's Build Back Better plan, despite the fact that each is broadly supported by the American people.

Rosenberg, J. (2022, June 7). “You can't run on defending democracy if democracy is broken.” *Mother Jones*. Retrieved from <https://www.motherjones.com/mojo-wire/2022/06/january-6-committee-hearings-house-defending-democracy-tv-spectacle/>

Falling behind: Ruth Milkman on the growing job insecurity in America

Author Ruth Milkman argues in an in-depth interview that the roots of millions of Americans’ financial problems can be traced to the late 1970s and 1980s, when the federal government rolled back labor protections put in place by the New Deal in the 1930s.

Kleinmaier, S. (2022, June). “Falling behind: Ruth Milkman on the growing job insecurity in America.” *The Sun Magazine*. Retrieved from <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/issues/558/falling-behind>

It’s a terrifying time to have kids in America. It doesn’t have to be this way

Anna North outlines several reasons why it is challenging to raise children in America today, including, but certainly not limited to, the current infant formula shortage, lack of paid parental leave, expiration of the child tax credit, increasing numbers of school shootings, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. North contends that embracing community and ensuring the viability of mutual aid groups are not alone a substitute for the structural changes necessary to make the nation safer and more welcoming for children and parents alike, but they can help to alleviate the existential fear that has lately become a feature of American life.

North, A. (2022, June 9). “It's a terrifying time to have kids in America. It doesn't have to be this way.” *Vox*. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/the-goods/2022/6/9/23159624/kids-covid-pandemic-formula-anxiety-2022>