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5 pieces worth reading

July 10, 2023

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America had more than one founding and more than one set of founders

New York Times opinion columnist Jamelle Bouie describes how abolitionists and opponents of slavery used the Declaration of Independence to justify their opposition to that practice. Scholars and leaders from 1776 to Abraham Lincoln nearly 100 years later utilized the Declaration to buttress their arguments against slavery. Bouie argues that our nation has effectively had more than one founding and that leaders contesting slavery using the tenets offered in the Declaration should be viewed as founders.

Bouie, J. (2023, July 4). "America had more than one founding and more than one set of founders." *The New York Times*.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/04/opinion/declaration-independence-antislavery-movement.html>

The Supreme Court killed Biden's Student Loan Forgiveness Plan. What does that mean for 2024?

Monica Potts analyzes the Supreme Court's 6-3 decision in this *FiveThirtyEight* piece to prevent implementation of President Biden's student loan forgiveness plan. The Court ruled that Biden could not use the 2003 HEROES Act to cancel \$10,000 in loans for targeted students without explicit Congressional approval. Potts contends that the ruling could have implications for the 2024 election because Biden had promised during his 2020 campaign to forgive a share of student debt, and some voters may therefore view this Court decision as a broken promise.

Potts, M. (2023, June 30). "The Supreme Court killed Biden's student loan forgiveness plan. What does that mean for 2024?" *FiveThirtyEight*.

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/supreme-court-student-loan-forgiveness-biden/>

Climate change: World's hottest day since records began

This *BBC News* story describes the unprecedented nature of July 3, 2023, which now stands as the hottest day ever recorded since such recordkeeping was initiated at the close of the 19th

Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)

century. The high temperatures resulted from a combination of El Niño coupled with ongoing carbon dioxide emissions.

McGrath, M. (2023, July 4). “Climate change: World’s hottest day since records began.” *BBC News*. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-66104822>

On the Fourth of July, a few reasons to feel encouraged about US democracy

Margaret Sullivan argues in this *Guardian* commentary that there are reasons to be hopeful about U.S. democracy, despite the nation’s continuing mass shootings and recent Supreme Court decisions rejecting or limiting affirmative action, abortion rights, and student loan forgiveness. Sullivan cites the Electoral Count Act of 2022 as critical in preventing state legislatures from changing how electors can be chosen after an election, thus making it more difficult to challenge electoral votes, as occurred on January 6, 2021. Additionally, the Supreme Court recently upheld the Voting Rights Act by striking down Alabama’s racial gerrymandering plan.

Sullivan, M. (2023, July 4). “On the Fourth of July, a few reasons to feel encouraged about US democracy.” *The Guardian*.
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jul/03/independence-day-fourth-of-july-american-democracy>

Why the world is on the brink of great disorder

Ray Dalio argues in this piece that the world community could be on the cusp of chaos. Among others, he cites climate change, tense relations between the U.S. and China, growing gaps in wealth and income, and artificial intelligence as trends that cause him to express this concern.

Dalio, R. (2023, June 26). “Why the world is on the brink of great disorder.” *Time*.
<https://time.com/6286449/ray-dalio-world-great-disorder/>