

5 pieces worth reading

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Opinion: A new symbol for the Fourth of July

Christine Emba argues that the tragic mass shooting in Highland Park, IL on Independence Day illustrates that not only has gun violence become a part of American culture, but that norm has fundamentally made us less free. Although the Supreme Court deserves part of the responsibility for its recent decision to ease restrictions on carrying guns in public, a shocking number of Americans have a misguided definition of freedom as their autonomous capacity to buy and use weapons of any sort, in lieu of considering the implications of that view for the health and safety of all citizens.

Emba, C. (2022, July 5). "Opinion: A new symbol for the Fourth of July: The active shooter," *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/07/05/highland-park-july-fourth-active-shooter/>

Buttigieg launches \$1B pilot to build racial equity in roads

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg has developed a \$1billion "Reconnecting Communities" pilot program aimed at linking cities and neighborhoods that were racially segregated or divided by road projects, despite criticism from Republicans that the effort is an example of the "woke-ification" of federal policy. Examples of new projects include rapid bus transit lines to link disadvantaged neighborhoods to jobs, repurposing former rail lines, and partial removal of highways.

Yen, H. (2022, June 30). "Buttigieg launches \$1B pilot to build racial equity in roads." *AP News*. Retrieved from <https://apnews.com/article/race-and-ethnicity-racial-injustice-transportation-pete-buttigieg-48e09f253781c89359d875f19fc70f9d>

Another step toward climate apocalypse

Paul Krugman examines the effect of partisanship on U.S. climate policy and contends that the Republican Party's shift away from embracing environmentally friendly policies leaves the United States as the only major nation in which an authoritarian right-wing party can/is block[ing] actions to prevent climate catastrophe.

Krugman, P. (2022, July 4). "Another step toward climate apocalypse." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/04/opinion/another-step-toward-climate-apocalypse.html>

Abortion, like Prohibition, has a clear racial dimension

Charles Blow considers alcohol and abortion restrictions through the lens of African-American perspectives. He argues that although Black people supported Prohibition in the 1920s because alcohol had been used to keep them in bondage during slavery, an overwhelming majority today support abortion rights and will be disproportionately affected by the state-level restrictions the Supreme Court recently permitted by rolling back the long-standing national Constitutional right to abortion.

Blow, C. (2022, July 3). "Abortion, like Prohibition, has a clear racial dimension." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/03/opinion/abortion-prohibition-racism.html>

The challenge to democracy-overcoming the small state bias

Democratic Leadership Council founder Al From argues the United States has a clear small state bias, as evidenced in the makeup of the Senate, Electoral College, and the Supreme Court. From also characterizes leaders, such as former President Donald Trump and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, as the sort of individuals that George Washington had in mind when he warned that the country should be one governed by laws.

From, A. (2022, July 6). "The challenge to democracy-overcoming the small state bias." *Brookings Brief*. Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2022/07/06/the-challenge-to-democracy-overcoming-the-small-state-bias/>