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## *5 pieces worth reading*

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### **Wonking out: Facts, feelings, and rural politics**

Paul Krugman discusses rural voters turn to the MAGA-fied Republican Party and how the radicalization of this portion of the electorate could lead to the demise of American democracy. Krugman argues that although rural residents' woes are real, it is difficult to see how supporting Republican policies and politicians will address them. Indeed, that stance looks set only to exacerbate them.

Krugman, P. (2022, October 21). "Wonking out: Facts, feelings and rural politics." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/21/opinion/rural-america-politics.html>

### **Republicans denounce inflation, but few economists expect their plans to help**

Jim Tankersley and Emily Cochrane contend that despite the fact that Republicans are using inflation as a key campaign issue in the midterms, economists on both side of the ideological spectrum agree that the policies they are proposing would not reduce inflation in 2023.

Tankersley, J., & Cochrane, E. (2022, October 26). "Republicans denounce inflation, but few economists expect their plans to help." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/26/us/politics/midterms-gop-republican-inflation-plans.html>

### **Opinion: Welcome to crazy- Pennsylvania's unusual races for governor and senator**

Former Republican Congressman of Pennsylvania Charlie Dent discusses that state's key races for governor and senator and how their outcome could determine the future of the country, especially in the case of Republican Gubernatorial nominee Doug Mastriano, who openly embraces several conspiracy theories, including Trump's "Big Lie" that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him.

*Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)*

Dent, C. (2022, October 24). "Opinion: Welcome to crazy - Pennsylvania's unusual races for governor and senator." *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/24/opinions/pennsylvania-elections-fetterman-oz-dent>

### **Hurting democracy won't help the economy**

Tom Nichols argues that Democrats should tie democracy to the economy as a midterms campaign issue, and ask voters to imagine what life would be like should the GOP win majorities in both houses of Congress. In particular, he suggests that should the GOP take control, they appear increasingly willing and likely to turn the United States into a democratically-challenged country by choosing to ignore any election result they happen not to like.

Nichols, T. (2022, October 26). "Hurting democracy won't help the economy." *The Atlantic*. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/newsletters/archive/2022/10/hurting-democracy-wont-help-the-economy/671862/>

### **Opinion | Democracies correct their mistakes. Dictatorships double down**

Max Boot contends that the United Kingdom's swift succession from Liz Truss's resignation to Rishi Sunak's accession as the country's next prime minister shows the important advantage of democracies relative to dictatorships; checks and balances can address even the most incompetent of leaders. In contrast, dictatorships are today reaping the consequences of inept one-man rule, such as Russia's cruel, costly and unnecessary war with Ukraine, due to Vladimir Putin, and China's failed COVID-19 response, due to Xi Jinping.

Boot, M. (2022, October 26). "Opinion | Democracies correct their mistakes. Dictatorships double down." *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/10/26/democracies-advantages-dictatorships-putin-xi/>